STATIC BUTTERFLY

LEARN ABOUT STATIC ELECTRICITY

What you'll need:

- Cardboard
- Tissue paper
- Cardstock paper
- Googly eyes
- Scissors
- Glue
- Balloon

How to make it:

1. Cut out a square from your cardboard. This will be the base for your butterfly.

2. Cut out a butterfly shape from the tissue paper. It should be one whole piece with a body and wings on either side.

3. Cut out a body for your butterfly from the cardstock paper. The length of the cardstock paper body should be longer than the tissue paper butterfly.

4. Layer your cardboard, tissue paper butterfly, and cardstock body on top of the tissue paper. Glue the body of the butterfly to the cardboard. Do NOT glue the wings down! Add some googly eyes to your butterfly too!

5. Blow up your balloon. To charge your balloon, rub it several times on your head to create static electricity.

6. Wave your charged balloon near the tissue paper wings. See how you can make your butterfly "fly" its wings without touching them!

What to expect:

The static electricity generated from rubbing your hair transfers to the balloon. This static electricity from the balloon makes the tissue paper wings move as it reacts with the static electricity from the balloon. Read more below on how static electricity works!

Pfizer

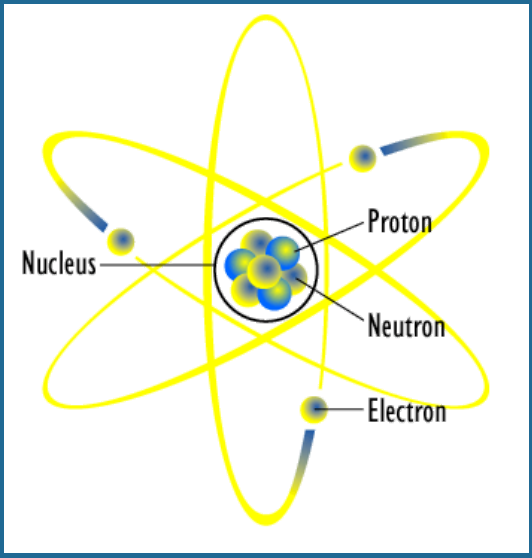
Science Saturday is made possible through the generosity of Pfizer Groton Labs

STATIC BUTTERFLY

LEARN ABOUT STATIC ELECTRICITY

What is static electricity?

Static electricity is the build up of an electrical charge on the surface of an object. It is called "static" because it stays in one place!



Static electricity, and all types of electricity as a matter of fact, happens because of teeny tiny particles called electrons. Everything in the world is made up of building blocks called atoms, which are so small that we can't even see them! Yes, even butterflies and your butterfly craft are both made of atoms. Atoms are made up of even tinier particles called protons, neutrons, and electrons. The electrons orbit the protons and neutrons of an atom, kind of like how the planets in our solar system orbit the Sun! Because electrons are always moving on the outside of the atom, they can leave or be pulled off the rest of the atom really easily!

How static electricity works:

When you rubbed your balloon against your head, electrons jumped from your hair to the surface of the balloon. The extra electrons on the balloon's surface gave it a negative static charge. The negatively charged balloon is attracted to the positively charged tissue paper. When the balloon gets close to the tissue paper, the attraction between positive and negative pulls the lightweight tissue paper without you having to even touch it! Static electricity is kind of like magic!

Science Saturday is made possible through the generosity of Pfizer Groton Labs