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Credit: K.shinde/UNEP/still pictures

Wind sock

A windsock tells us from which direction the wind is coming. This particular windsock looks like a school of fish darting and swimming together.

You will need

- 45 cm each of three different colours of fabric
- Scissors
- Old newspapers
- Fabric glue (available in fabric shops) or glue gun
- Scraps of other colours of lightweight fabric for decoration
- 6 plastic glue-on eyes (available from craft shops, or make them from old plastic washing-up-liquid bottles)
- About 90 cm of easy-to-bend wire
- Fishing line or kite string
- Pliers
- Piece of 20-mm dowel, about 120 cm long

Steps

1

First, use one piece of fabric to make the fish. Use the template provided to draw and cut out a fish shape, being careful not to cut into the fold of the cloth. Your fish's body should be wide enough to fold around on itself into a tube. Save any scraps of material to use as decoration on other fish. Now, put a layer of newspaper under the entire piece of fabric.

2

Cut scales and other shapes out of fabric of other colours. Glue these in place. Also, glue on two eyes.

3

When the glue has dried, turn the fish over so the decorated side is against the table. Cut a piece of wire for the mouth end of the fish. Run a bead of glue all along the edge of the mouth end. Lay the wire just inside the line of glue. Fold the fabric over to cover the wire.

4

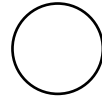
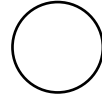
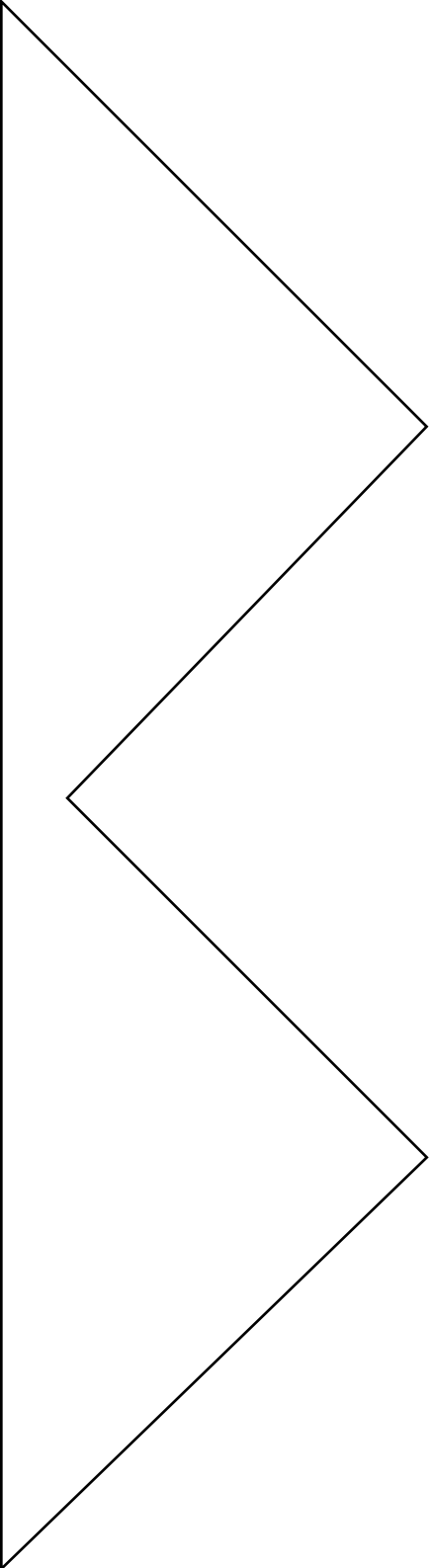
When this glue has dried completely, turn the fish back over so the decorated side faces up. Run a bead of glue all along the outside edges. Fold the fish over so that the other outside edge is pressed against the bead of glue and the fish has been glued into a fish-shaped tube. Do not glue the mouth or tail end closed. As you get close to the mouth end, you will have to bend the mouth wire into a hoop. Bend the wires that are sticking out of the mouth end so that they lock together and hold the mouth into a round hoop.

5

Stab three holes around the hoop, just inside the wire. Into each hole thread a 45-cm piece of fishing line or kite string. Tie these strings to the hoop, then gather the free ends of the strings and tie them together. Repeat all the above steps for the other two fish.

6

Tie the three fish to the dowel, which you should then hang out of a window. Watch as the wind blows, occasionally changing direction so that the fish dart about in the same direction (as if in the ocean). You can add more fish of different sizes and colours to the shoal.



fold wire along dotted line

