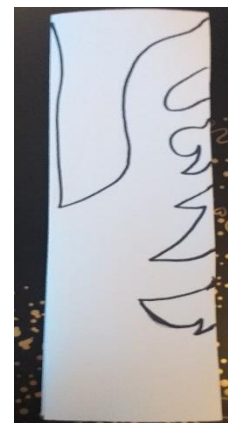


A Trio of Festive Paper Chain Swans



There is something very festive about seeing a beautiful white swan glide along the river Thames. In the Victorian era the Richmond Coat of Arms had a swan upon its crest.



Swan template

This craft activity will show you how to make three paper chain swans as a seasonal decoration for your home or even as a 3D Christmas card for a loved one!

Equipment:

*A3 or A4 white light card *Ruler *Pencil *Scissors

Suggested decorating equipment: Orange and black felt tip pens, glitter glue, tissue paper, and ribbons.

Instructions:

1. Turn your paper landscape to fold the paper strip into six equal sections of accordion pleats. The first pleats should be about 6.5 cm wide if you are using A3 card (3 cm for A4). You only need to measure the first one. Make a dot to mark the measurement and fold your first pleat from here.
2. Just like making a paper fan fold one edge back to meet the fold you just made, and crease. Turn the paper over and repeat with the other edge. Keep going until you have six pleats. Trim any extra off the end.
3. With the cut edge of the folded strip to the right, look at the template above and use a pencil to draw half of an swan with its beak in the air along the left (folded) edge with wings extending to the cut edge. You can print and trace the A4/A3 templates if needed.
4. Start carefully cutting out your swan, when finished open your swans and bend the top of their beaks forward.



Decorate your swans! (optional)

Get creative! You could use orange and black felt tips to make the swans eyes and beak. You could add glitter or coloured tissue paper to their wings. You can use a black felt tip to add detailed feathers and ribbons to tie round their necks.

