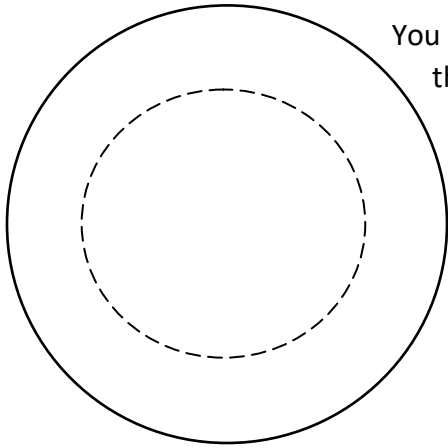


Paper Plate Bird

Materials: Paper plate, or plain paper, Pencil, Scissors, Glue, Hole punch, String or Yarn, (optional paint, crayons, markers, pencils).

Use a plain white, unwaxed paper plate if you wish to paint or color it with markers or crayons. They're also easier for little hands to fold and cut. But any paper plate will do (I like the very small ones for making Hummingbirds with long pointy beaks).



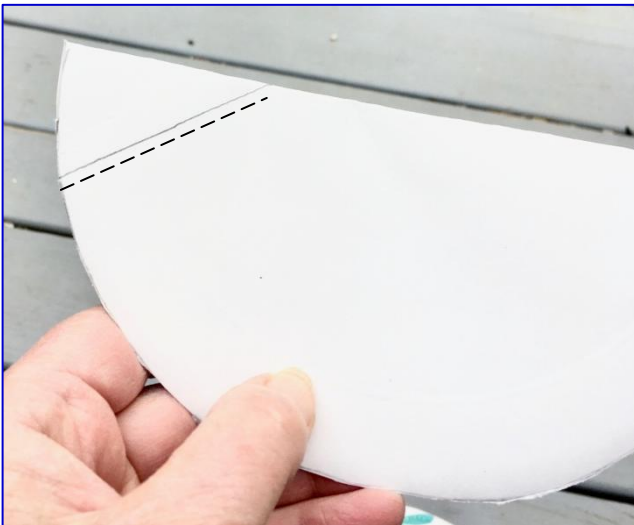
You may also use plain paper, card stock, thin cardboard and draw concentric circles for cutting guidelines.



- 1) Fold your plate/Circle in Half
- 2) Draw a line around the inside edge of the plate, leaving a "wedge" on one side for the "tail".



- 3) Cut around your line (doing one side first if the plate is very thick). Save the outside edges for your “wings”. Be sure to cut around the edge piece meant to be the tail.
- 4) Next cut a pie-shaped section off the opposite side from the tail to make your “beak”. Older kids can choose the kind of bird they’re making by defining the beak as thick, thin and narrow, shorter or longer.



You should now have the bird’s **“body” with “tail”** attached. (If you accidentally forgot to leave the “tail”, just glue one on later.) Also, a **“beak”** and **“wings”** which are one side of the outer edge that you cut off initially. Just fold one of those in half.

Now you’re ready to glue.



5) If your plate has a design on it, or has a 'waxy side', choose to use make it the outside of your bird's body,(as I did here), or glue it together so you can use the non-waxy side to color yourself. Then open your bird's body and place glue on one side, making sure you get some near the edges. Then fold it in half again and put a weight on it for few minutes if necessary to hold it together until it dries enough to hold together.

6) Place glue on the inside of your "beak", *on both sides*.



7) 'Saddle' your "beak", *fold-side up*, onto your bird's "face" – the place where you originally cut off your pie-shaped "beak". The beak should protrude out from the face.



8) "Wings" are next. Take *one* of the outer edge pieces cut from the original plate, and fold it in half. You'll "saddle" the fold on top of the folded edge of your bird's body. You can try this out before you glue so you know how and where you'll be placing the wings.

After they're sitting on the back of the bird, I like to fold the wings upward and away from the body about an inch or so from the top so the wings stand out from the body.

Then trim a little off the ends of the "wings" to make them more aerodynamic.



9) Place the glue into the fold of the wings and saddle them onto your bird's back.



10) If you've used a plain white paper plate or paper, this is when you may add color to your bird, adding designs, feathers, or patterns. Older kids may wish to trim the body to give the head and breast more definition, or cut tiny triangle wedges from the tail and wing edges to indicate feathery edges.



If your paper plate is not too thick, use a hole punch atop the wings/body where you can then tie your string or yarn, or staple it on. Then your bird is ready to fly in the breeze either outdoors or indoors! Create several for mobiles. Small plates, help make smaller birds like the Hummingbird below with a longer, pointier beak. Multi-media paper, or white paper plates allow for painting. Older kids can make custom wings, and legs left uncut from the broad circle, to help make specific birds from Blue jays to Bald eagles.

