

### Spreading the Wings of Butterflies and Moths

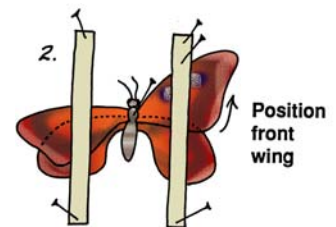
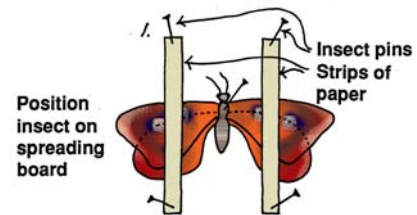
Materials and supplies needed:

1. Winged insect specimen
2. Spreading board
3. Insect pins
4. Narrow strips of paper
5. Forceps, tweezers, or similar tool

Procedure:

NOTE: Always handle the specimen with care so that the parts are not damaged. The following procedure is followed when a spreading board is used.

1. Gently grasp the insect specimen by the thorax, the middle section of the insect, and hold it right side up.
2. Insert an insect pin through the center of the thorax.
3. Move the insect to the 1-inch position on the pin.
4. Lower the pinned specimen onto the spreading board. The pin should go into, and maybe even through, the bottom of the groove.
5. Push the pin through the board until the underside of the wings is even with the top piece of the spreading board.
6. Pin narrow strips of paper over the wings on each side to hold them in place. See illustration 1.
7. Remove the pin on one side at the lower end of the strip of paper.
8. Raise the front wing until the rear edge is at a right angle to the body. Forceps, a pin, or some other tool may be helpful in doing this. Be careful not to tear or puncture the wing. See illustration 2.



9. When the wing is in place, insert a pin through the strip of paper just in front of the tip of the wing.
10. Pin the lower edge of the paper strip back into place.
11. Repeat this procedure with the other front wing. See illustration 3.
12. Using forceps, a pin, or some other tool, raise the hind wing on one side until the space between the front and hind wings is reduced. The front wing will overlap the hind wing. See illustration 4.
13. Move the pin in the lower part of the paper strip until it is just below the tip of the hind wing.
14. Repeat this procedure with the hind wing on the other side.
15. Position the antennae so that they appear balanced.
16. Put pins alongside the antennae to hold them in place. See illustration 5.
17. Fasten the legs close to the body at right angles to the body by placing a strip of paper across the entire body.
18. Prepare 1 or 2 labels. (Refer to AS 2.)
19. Allow the insect to dry in place. This may take from a few hours to a few days.
20. When the insect is dry, carefully remove the strips of paper and mount the insect with labels.

