

## Glue Paint Symmetry Prints

Finger painting has never been so fun — or so very tidy!

This project incorporates glue paint — basic white glue tinted with any shade of watercolor. It dries with a beautiful transparency that is enhanced when applied to a clear sheet. When the sheet is folded, the colors can be blended and moved about the page, without actually touching it!

For early elementary ages, this project provides a beginning lesson in color-mixing and monoprinting. Open the sheet up to dry — the pattern appears symmetrically on either side, like butterfly wings.

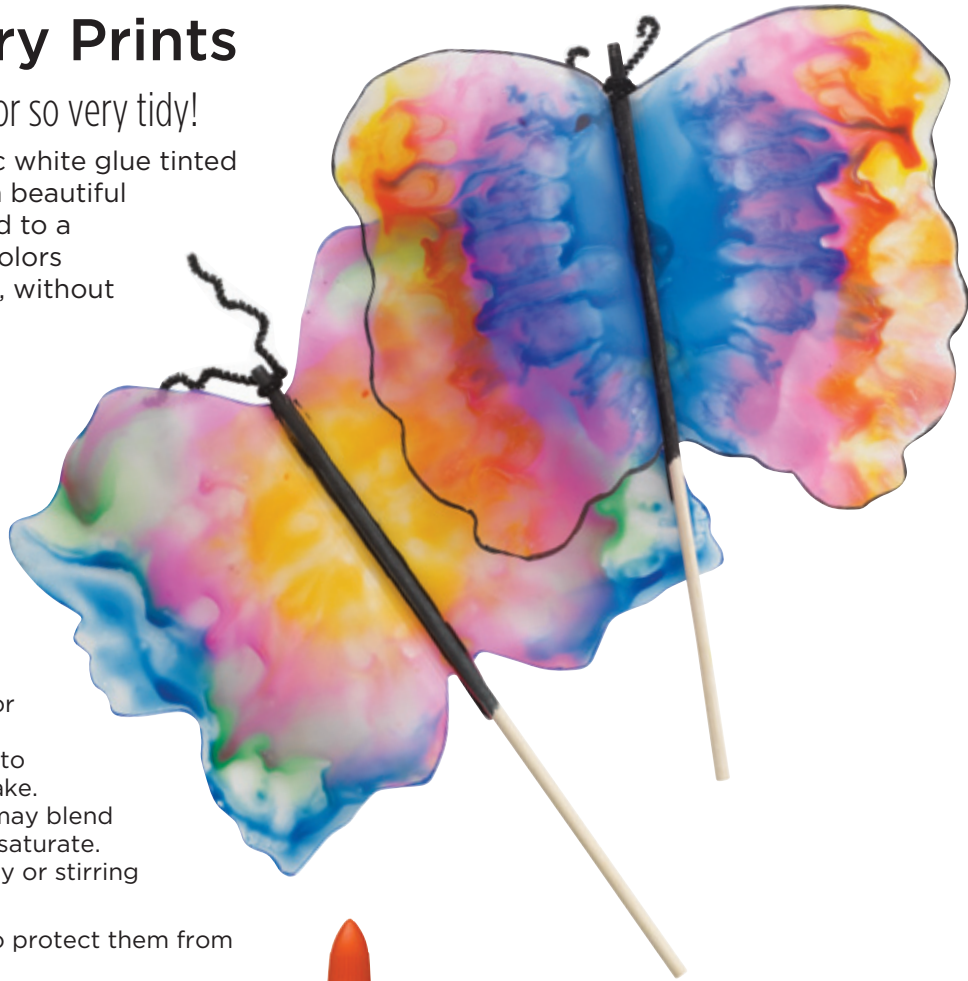
**GRADES preK-5** Note: instructions and materials are based upon a class size of 25 students. Adjust as needed.

### Preparation

1. Make glue paint by adding Liquid Watercolor to small glue bottles. Squeeze about a teaspoon of paint from the bottle directly into an open glue bottle. Put the lid on it and shake. Depending upon the brand of glue used, it may blend readily or it may take hours for the color to saturate. Turning the bottle upside down occasionally or stirring the glue with a craft stick will help it blend.
2. Cover work surfaces with paper or plastic to protect them from paint stains.

### Process

1. Fold a piece of Dura-Lar film in half and reopen it. Squeeze multiple colors of glue paint randomly on one side. Keep the glue close to the center of the page and the fold, away from the edges. The more glue that is used, the stronger the color will be.
3. Fold Dura-Lar back over. With fingers, press down on the glue to spread it and move it until the colors touch and blend. Extra pressure can move paint away completely and create open areas.  
Note: if paint is pushed too far, it will escape from the edges.
4. Open the fold and allow the glue to dry overnight. Colors will become transparent as they dry.
5. While the glue paint is drying, solidly color about 8" of one end of a 12" dowel using black water-based marker.
6. When the glue paint is dry, fold it again and use one of the patterns on the following pages to cut out symmetrical wing shapes. Glue the dowel so that about 2" goes over the top of the wings for the "head."
7. Twist a 3" piece of black craft stem (pipe cleaner) and twist around the butterfly's "head" for antennae.
8. When the glue is dry, hold the end of the dowel and move it gently up and down to make the butterfly "fly"!



### Materials

Graphix® Dura-Lar™ Clear, 25-sheet pad, 9" x 12", .003"(55506-1303); share one among class

Elmer's® Glue-All, 4-oz bottles (23887-1004); share 10-12 among class

Blick® Liquid Watercolor, 4-oz assorted colors, recommend a minimum selection of:

Blue (00369-5004)  
Yellow (00369-4004)  
Magenta (00369-3044)

Also needed for Butterflies:

Blick® Broadline Water-Based Marker, Black (21224-2001); need one per student

Wooden Dowel Rod, 1/4" diameter x 12", package of 12 (60448-1412); need one per student

Creativity Street® Craft Stems, 12", Black, package of 100 (60923-2022); share one package among class

**National Standards for Visual Arts Education**

**Content Standard #1** – Understanding and applying media, techniques and processes

**K-4** Students know the differences between materials, techniques, and processes.

**5-8** Students intentionally take advantage of the qualities and characteristics of art media, techniques, and processes to enhance communication of their experiences and ideas.

**Content Standard #2** – Using knowledge of structures and functions

**K-4** Students use visual structures and functions of art to communicate ideas

**5-8** Students generalize about the effects of visual structures and functions and reflect upon these effects in their own work.



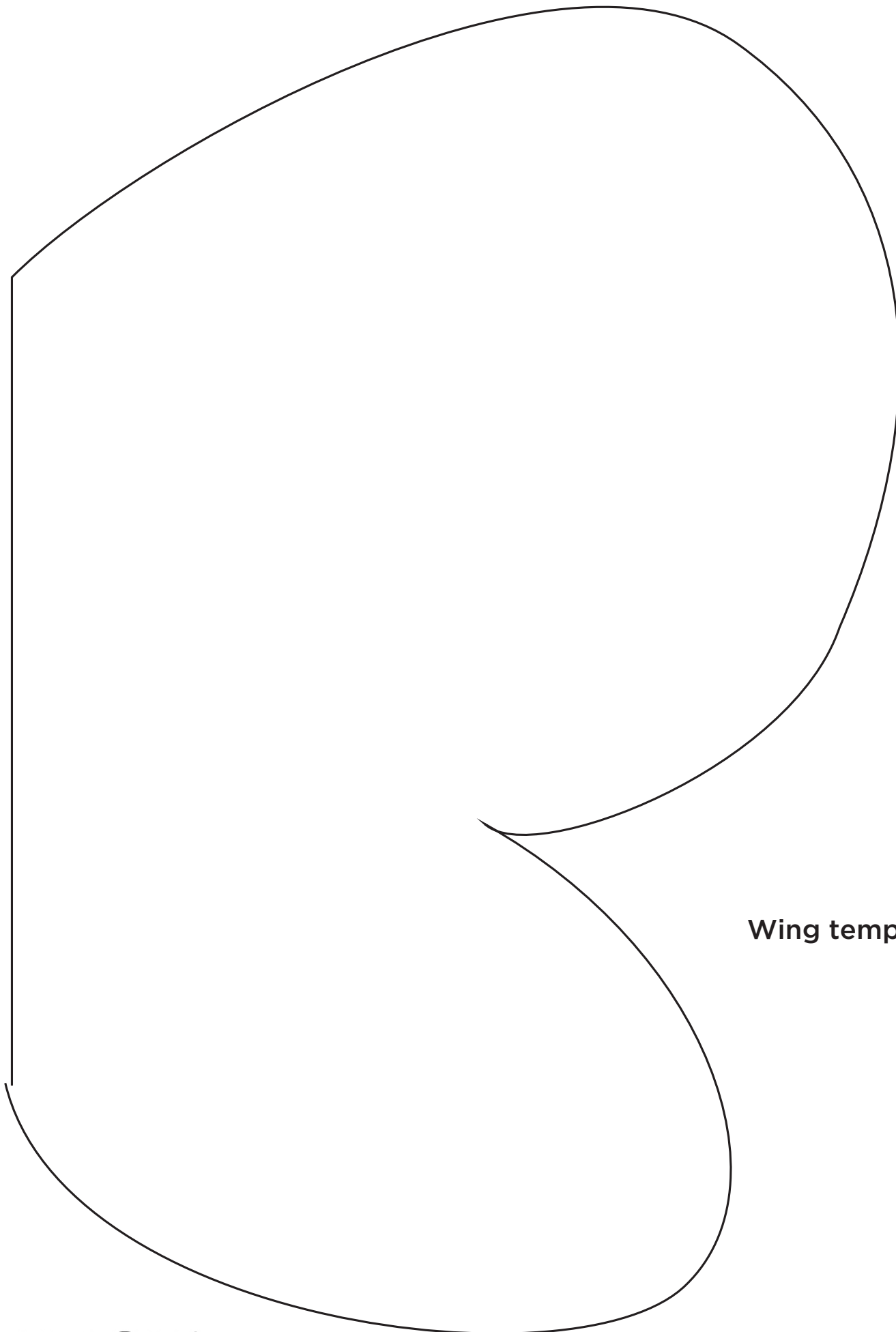
*Step 1: Add Liquid Watercolor to white glue to create colors.*



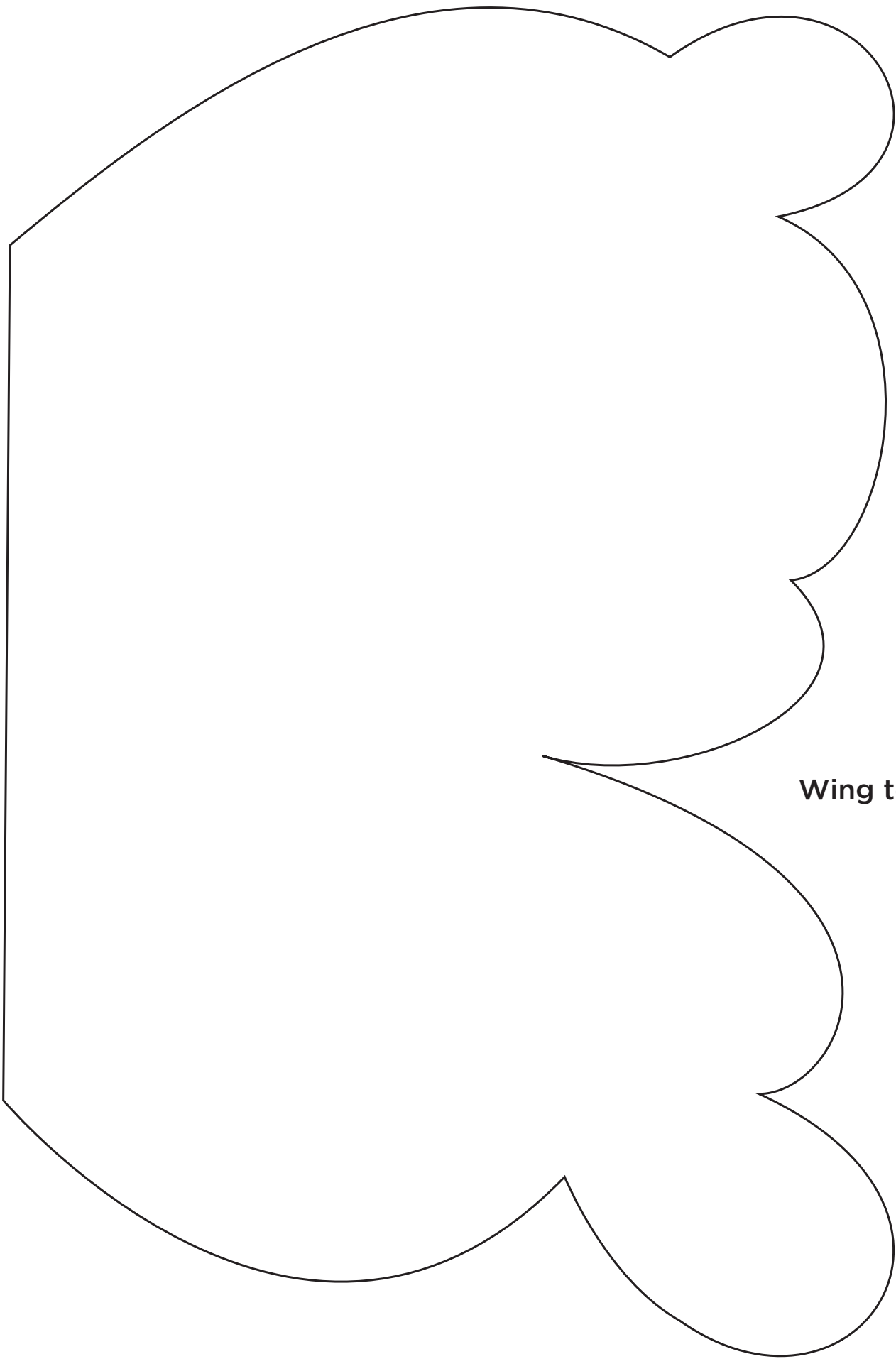
*Step 2: Squeeze the colors on one side of a folded transparent sheet.*



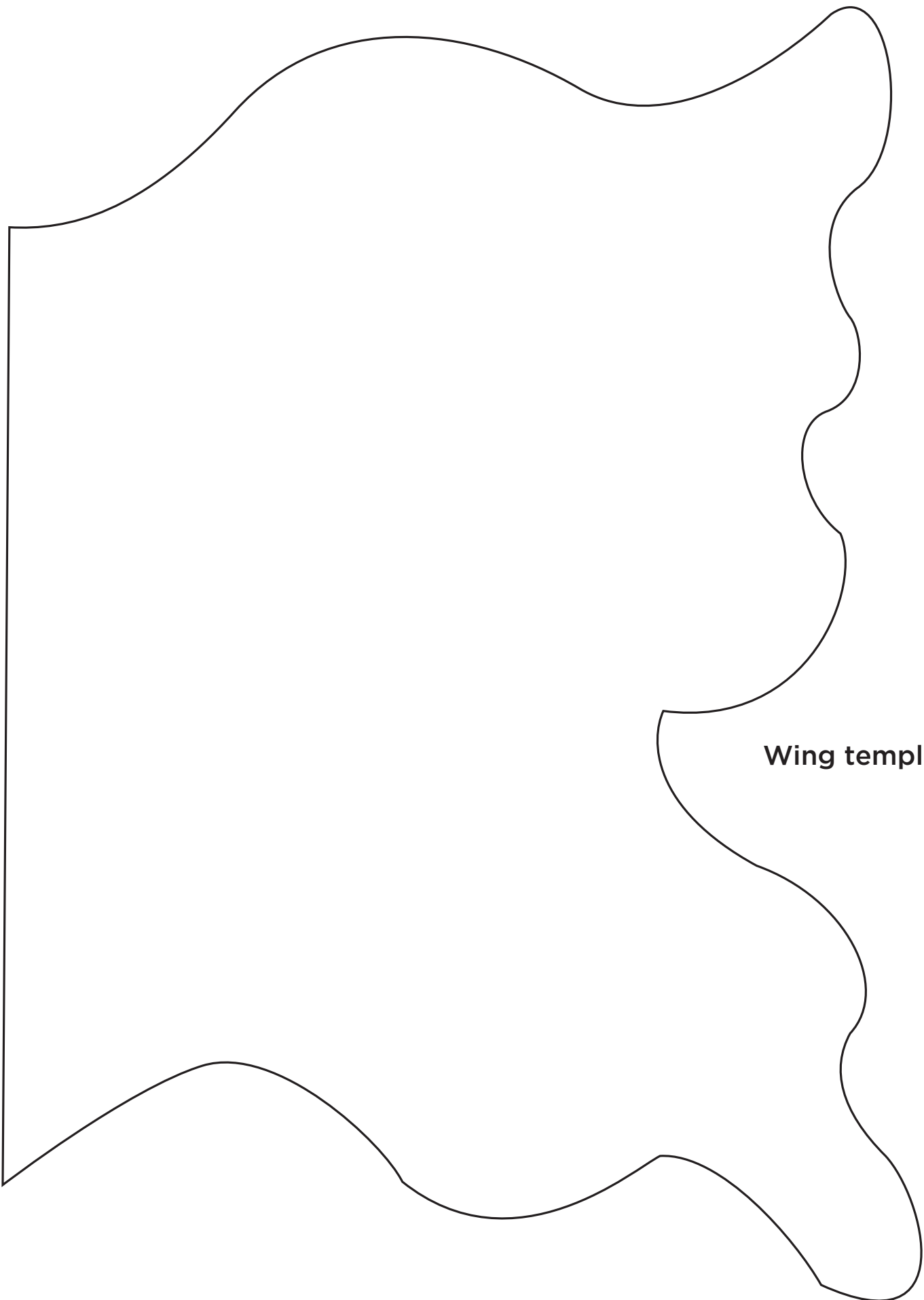
*Step 3: Fold and move paint around with fingers. Open, dry and use the print to make butterfly wings.*



Wing template 1



Wing template 2



**Wing template 3**