Gorgeous Glow Worms

Investigate Activity

Fireflies spend most of their lives as larvae, hunting down earthworms, snails, and other soft-bodied prey hiding in leaf litter. Firefly larvae glow, just like many species of adult firefly, and are also known as glow worms in this larval phase.

What you need:
- 1 piece of 8.5 x 11 paper. Cardstock or construction paper is recommended
- Scissors
- Glue or glue stick
- Highlighter or yellow marker
- Pencil

What you’ll do:
1. The first step is to fold your piece of paper like an accordion. You want six folds, each about 1 ½ inches tall. Follow the steps below.
2. With your paper folded, take a pencil and draw three half circles on the paper. Make each half circle a slightly different size - one should be large, one medium, and one small. Cut out each half circle.

3. Choose your 11 favorite circles and line them up so that you have smaller segments at each end of the body and the largest segments in the middle. Apply a thin line of glue along one side of each segment and slightly overlap each segment so they stick together.

4. Once your body is glued together and drying, cut a tall, skinny triangle into your folded paper to make some legs. You will need six little legs for your larva.
5. Glue the legs to the second, third, and fourth body segments. You may want to color your firefly larva, or use another color construction paper to create light organs. You can add light organs to the last 2-3 body segments, at the opposite end of the body from the head.

Ta-da! A gorgeous glow worm!