

Spring Mobile 3-5

By: Shirley Rose

Lesson

Butterflies are an important part of ecosystems throughout the world. They & their moth relatives continue to be important as pollinators for flowers &, in their larval stage, as food sources for birds. They are herbivores & keep plant populations in balance. Butterflies are attracted to bright flowers & need to feed on nectar. When they do this their bodies collect pollen & carry it to other plants. This helps fruits, vegetables, & flowers to produce new seeds. Butterfly populations are declining due to habitat destruction.



Large-scale conversion of woods, wetlands & meadows into developments endanger butterflies, birds & native host plants. As grasslands go by the wayside so do many native plant species that are important for larval butterflies. You can help by planting a butterfly garden in your yard. Discover what butterflies are in your area & add their favorite host plants. For example, monarch butterflies prefer milkweed & don't forget to add nectar plants & choose plant varieties allowing staggered bloom times. That way nectar will always be available for your butterfly friends.

Butterfly Facts

Butterfly's wings are covered by thousands of tiny scales & these scales reflect light in different colors.

Butterflies have taste receptors on their feet to help them find their host plants & locate food.

Their mouthparts are modified to enable them to drink, but they cannot chew solids.

A Butterfly must assemble its own proboscis, when a butterfly emerges its mouth is in 2 parts.

Butterflies drink water from mud puddles to enrich their diet with minerals & salts.

If the air temperature falls below 55 degrees Fahrenheit, butterflies are become immobile.

A newly emerged Butterfly can't fly it must rest a few hours to allow its body to dry & harden before it can take its first flight.

Butterflies only live two to four short weeks.

Butterflies are nearsighted but can see colors, they can only see within 10-12 feet, but they can see a range of ultraviolet colors that are invisible to the human eye.

Butterflies employ tricks to avoid being eaten some butterflies fold their wings to blend into the background & use camouflage to make themselves invisible to predators.

Questions for students

What could you do to help butterflies?

How long do butterflies live?

What is one reason why butterfly populations are declining?

Why do butterflies drink from mud puddles?

How do butterflies help the environment?



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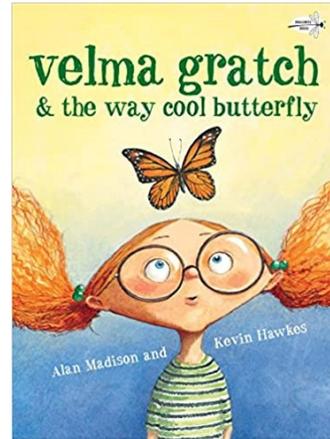
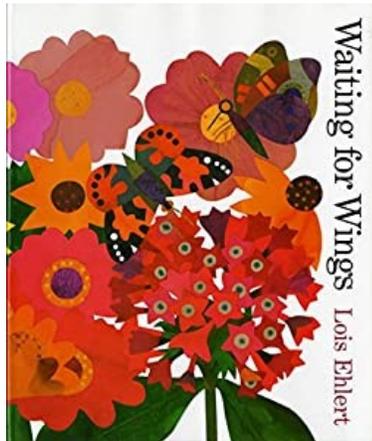
Please us the Other Resources Page before you start the art project

Other Learning Resources

Books to Read

Waiting for Wings By Lois Ehlert

Velma Gratch and the Way Cool Butterfly by Alan Madison



Videos About Ways To Protect Butterflies

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=woPIGxkgy-g>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3WIDa-ITURO>

Videos About Pollinators

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9vyZNx_JHtM

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rmL_XTrPOMw



Materials

- 1 Paper Towel Roll
- 1 Magazine
- String or yarn
- Pipe Cleaners
- Blue & White Paint, paint Brushes
- Glue Stick & hot Glue
- Scissors



Instructions

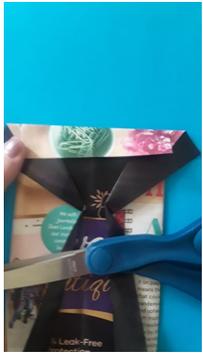
Parents may need to help with steps in Green



1. Gather all your materials.
2. Mix the blue & white paint together to make light blue. Paint the paper towel roll & let it dry.
3. To make a butterfly choose a colorful page from a magazine & carefully tear it out. Trim the edge where it was torn.



4. Fold page in half, then unfold. Fold both sides into the center, making a gate.
5. Fold down the top corners $\frac{1}{4}$ way down the length of page. Looks like a collar when done.
6. Now fold below where first fold ended, so it looks like a suit.



7. From the top (Collar) you will be doing an accordion fold. fold down $\frac{1}{4}$ inch then fold toward the back a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch, alternating back & forth all the way to the bottom of the page. Note that the last fold may be a little smaller.
8. Now fold it in half, wrap a pipe cleaner in the center & twist it shut to hold the butterfly together. Curl the edges of the pipe cleaner to form antennas.



9. Pull down each sides to open & form shape of butterfly. Repeat steps 3-9 to make multiple butterflies, play around with many sizes.
10. On the blue tube, paint white clouds. When the first layer dries add a little light blue on top to give it depth. Let it dry.



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Instructions

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11. For a flower cut a sheet from the magazine, trim the edge & cut it into a square. Fold the square lengthwise, then horizontally, open it & cut on the folds, making 4 even sized squares.

12. Fold top of square 1 down $\frac{1}{4}$ inch toward you then fold it back continuing back & forth all the way to the end, like the butterfly. Now fold it in half. Do this to all 4 squares.

13. Take 1 folded square & glue the center together, making a fan. Do this to all 4 pieces, then glue all 4 fans together making a circle. Cut 2 different size circles from your scraps & glue on top.



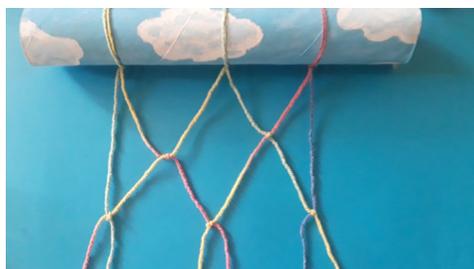
14. Cut a piece of string & run it through the hole of the Tube. Tie it at the top to hang the mobile.

15. Cut 3 pieces of string the same length (sort of long) fold each in half, lay paper tube on top then fold the top of the loop over the tube & pull the 2 strings through the loop of string & Pull tight. Do this with 2 more pieces of string. Space evenly on sky tube.



16. Now there are 6 strings hanging. Label them in your mind from left to right 1-6. Tie 2 & 3 together, then 4 & 5. Now tie the 2 center ones (2 & 3) together, it will look like a diamond shape. Then tie 1 & 2 together forming a triangle shape.

17. Decide where you want to place butterflies & flowers. Hot glue them on the strings. Hang & enjoy!



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