



GP-1918

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Hands-On Learning

Project Ideas • Cross Curricular Links • Activity Sheets

Measure 'N Learn[™] Butterfly Life Cycle

PACKAGE OF 12



Please read all directions before starting.

Your package contains:

- Boxes
- Markers
- Tape Measures
- Tablecloth

Additional Materials You will Need:

- Magazines for pictures (optional)

Instructions: Enjoy learning about the different stages of a butterfly while coloring the tape measure with the markers included. The easiest way to color the box is when it's laid flat on a table.

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Teaching Activities Inside

Once you've finished coloring, bend each section of the box at the score line. Make sure the rounded flap at the end is folded down to the inside of the box. Insert the paper end into the slot of the box (see Photo A). Wrap the end of the paper around the roll and remove the self adhesive tape to secure the end to the roll. Making sure that the end of the paper is taped onto the roll straight and so that it is closer to the left end than the right end. With the roll inside the box (see Photo B), fold up the box and insert the tabs of the long edge first to secure. Then close both ends. One end will have the roll sticking out, so that you can unroll the paper and re-roll the paper back up.

Photo A



Photo B



Butterfly Activity Guide

Children are fascinated by nature, growth, change – and BUGS! One of their favorites is the butterfly. Perhaps it is the way these insects fly so elegantly, or maybe it's their incredible metamorphosis from crawly

creature to air-born beauty. Whatever captures their attention, butterflies provide a perfect microcosm of scientific study for young children. Through these life cycle activities, children can practice all the steps of the scientific method, from observing and classifying to predicting and experimenting. Plus, all the wonderful butterfly colors lend themselves to all kinds of creative activities!

Arts/Writing

Colorful Craft Ideas

Butterflies attract everyone. Their colors and grace inspire imaginations. Make an art project with just a few simple steps that children will love. Start by giving them cut-out butterfly shapes and ask them to decorate with markers. Add glue, sequins and glitter for extra excitement.

- **Mobiles:** Bring in some twigs, hang horizontally, then hang 3 or 4 finished butterflies from each twig with clear cord.
- **Magnets:** Glue a magnet to the back of each butterfly for a take-home kitchen magnet.
- **Clothespin Creatures:** Glue each butterfly to the bottom of a clothespin. Add wiggle eyes and chenille-stem antennae for added effect! You can also choose to glue a magnetic strip to the bottom of the clothespin for a multipurpose magnet. Hold notes, report cards and pictures!
- **Pom Pom Caterpillar.** Give the children lots of pom poms of various sizes and colors to choose from, plus some clothespins, glue and wiggly eyes. With supervision, they can glue the pom poms to the clothespins and wiggly eyes to the front of their caterpillars. If you'd like, hot glue a few caterpillar clothespins to a piece of wood to hang and clip school notices, homework, projects and more!
- **Picture Time:** Have each child draw a picture of a butterfly's habitat. Encourage them to be as accurate as possible and label plants, animals and other insects they include. Bind all the pages together and you have your very own Butterfly Book!

Cooking

Make Butterfly Cookies!

All you need is slice-and-bake cookie dough, M&Ms, thin licorice whips and a cookie sheet. Help each child slice one round slice from the roll of cookie dough. They will cut the circle in half and reposition the halves of the circle so that the curved edges are touching and the straight edges are on the outside. This will resemble a butterfly. Using M&Ms, ask the children to decorate the butterfly's wings with polka dots. (Review symmetry). Add 2 short pieces of licorice whip for antennae. Bake according to package directions and eat!

Social Studies/Map Skills

Maps & Migration

Discuss and chart butterfly migration routes on a map. All you need is a reproducible map of North America and crayons. On a large classroom map show the children the various destinations of migrating butterflies. Say: "Mom and Dad monarch butterflies spend winters in California and Mexico. When the weather warms and days get longer, their children fly north." Write the destinations on a poster board, place them around the room and have the children pretend that they are butterflies and fly to reach each one (North, South, East, etc.) *Butterfly Express* by Jane Belk Moncure (published 1998 by The Child's World, Elgin, IL) is a nice book to read in connection with this activity.

Science/Written Languages

The Real Deal

Observe the metamorphosis of an actual butterfly over a period of 2 weeks. You will need a small aquarium with cover, caterpillars, fresh milkweed leaves and a journal. Provide Monarch Butterfly caterpillars for the children to observe (order the Butterfly

Garden LR156 from S&S, or find them in nature on milkweed plants). Ask the children to write their daily observations in a class butterfly journal. Designate a butterfly reporter to read each day's entries to the rest of the class. Ask the children to make predictions about what they think will happen next. Graph predictions of how many days it will take to hatch. Set the butterfly free when it hatches.

Music/Dramatic Play

Sing a Song

Help children learn the sequence and stages of the butterfly's life cycle through song! Sing the following words to the tune of Skip to My Lou:

*I'm an egg, hatch with me
I'm an egg, hatch with me
I'm an egg, hatch with me
What will I be, my darling?*

In subsequent verses, substitute the words:

*I'm a caterpillar, wiggle with me... Etc.
I'm a chrysalis, sleep with me... Etc.
I'm a butterfly, fly with me... Etc.*

Act it Out

Have the children act out the various stages of development with their bodies, curling into a ball to represent the egg, wiggling as the caterpillar, standing very still with their arms stretched to the ceiling, hands clasped for the chrysalis and flapping their arms like wings to fly. Or you may choose to have the children act out the story as you read *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle.