



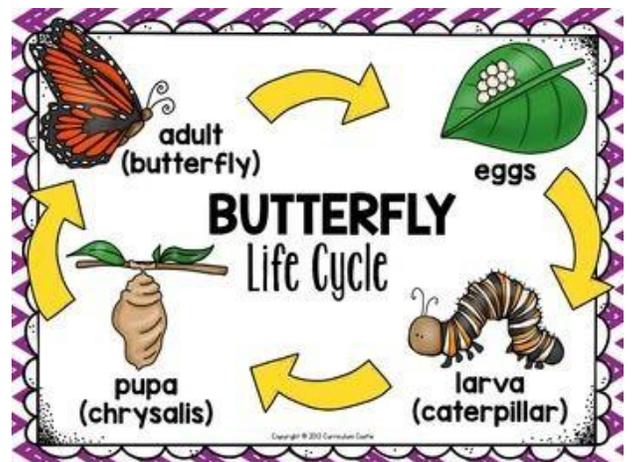
by Cindy Steele

## Butterfly, Flutterby!

Welcome back to Puddles' Craft Corner. It's June and I can't believe summer is here! If you have ever seen a blossoming tree or been in a flower garden, then there is no doubt that you have also seen a butterfly. Butterflies are known for their beautiful colors and unique patterns. They come in a large variety of shapes and sizes along with a unique lifecycle. This month, our craft celebrates these beautiful, fluttering, colorful summer visitors. There is just something so amazing about a beautiful, fragile butterfly choosing *YOU* to land on!

Puddles, the mascot of the National Wildlife Refuge System, is here to help us learn a bit about butterflies while making a colorful craft. Nature arts and crafts are fun and can be a great learning tool for kids. Crafts are not only entertaining, but they teach colors, numbers, shapes, and develop fine motor skills while getting kids excited about nature. Not only is this craft lovely, but it is packed with those fine-motor skills. Dabbing, squeezing, scrunching, pinching... it's perfect for kids!

This is a great activity to sprinkle in a bit of information about butterflies. Use this poster to learn about the unique lifecycle of the butterfly. Next, use the anatomy poster to discuss a bit about the butterfly's body parts.



As a bonus, here are some fun facts about butterflies:

- Butterflies are insects.
- A butterfly's lifecycle is made up of four parts, egg, larva (caterpillars), pupa (chrysalis) and adult.
- Butterflies attach their eggs to leaves with a special glue.
- Most caterpillars are plant eaters (herbivores).
- Fully grown caterpillars attach themselves to a suitable twig or leaf before shedding their outside layer of skin to reveal a hard skin underneath known as a chrysalis.
- An adult butterfly will eventually emerge from the chrysalis where it will wait a few hours for its wings to fill with blood and dry, before flying for the first time.
- Butterflies can live in the adult stage from anywhere between a week and a year, depending on the species.
- Butterflies are symmetrical...meaning their wings are mirror images of each other.
- Butterflies have four wings.
- Butterflies often have brightly colored wings with unique patterns made up of tiny scales.
- Most butterflies feed on nectar from flowers.
- Butterflies have taste receptors on their feet.
- Scientists estimate that there are between 15,000 and 20,000 different species of butterflies.
- Monarch butterflies are known for their long migration. Every year, monarch butterflies will travel a great distance (sometimes over 3,000 miles), females will lay eggs and a new generation of monarchs will travel back, completing the cycle.



Now, it's time to gather a few materials to make your very own vibrant fluttering butterfly!

## Butterfly Coffee Filter Craft



### Materials

1. One paper coffee filter
2. One clothes pin
3. One colorful chenille stem (pipe cleaner)
4. Crayola markers
5. Water sprayer
6. Googly eyes
7. Green or brown acrylic paint
8. Paint brush
9. Scissors
10. Glue
11. One toothpick/paper towels
12. Pan or tray

### Instructions

1. Gather all of your supplies.



2. Flatten the coffee filter on plate or tray.



3. Color the coffee filter with brightly colored Crayola markers.



4. Spray a fine mist of water on the coffee filter. Add enough water for the colors to start spreading, but don't add too much water...the colors will mix too much and produce a muddy brown color.



5. Let the coffee filter dry.



6. While coffee filter is drying, paint clothes pin, glue on googly eyes, and paint on smile with a paint marker or sharpie.



7. Gather the coffee filter in the center, fluff out the wings, and place inside the clothes pin.



8. Cut the chenille stem (pipe cleaner) into 3-4 inch piece. Bend the chenille stem in half, curl the ends, and place it in the clothes pin. Now, you have a beautiful butterfly to display or fly around your yard!



Join Puddles next month for a jumpin' July craft!