



Discovery Time: Butterflies



Introduction

Reflective symmetry occurs when an object can be divided into two halves and both halves are mirror images of each other. Butterflies are beautiful examples of reflective symmetry in nature, and in this activity we will take common supplies around the house to make a butterfly.



Early Literacy Connection

- Picking up sequins and pom poms refines your child's pincher grasp, which they will need in order to use a pencil once they begin to write
- Talking with your child builds their vocabulary. The more words your child hears, the easier it will be for them to recognize words when they read.
- Natural sciences encourage a young child's connection with nature. Children who have opportunities to explore nature are more likely to:
 - Handle challenges and problems more capably
 - Act responsibly towards the earth and each other
 - Be more physically active
 - Have a greater appreciation of the arts, music, history, and literature
 - Choose science or a related field for careers
 - Become better-informed and environmentally-aware adults
- Children are born with a natural affinity towards nature and are fascinated with animals. By building on your child's natural interest in animals, you are fostering a respect for all living things

Supplies

- | | | | |
|----------------|------------|----------|--|
| • Paper plates | • Glue | • Ruler | • Butterfly Decorations: |
| • Pipe cleaner | • Scissors | • Pencil | Buttons/sequins/pom poms/stick on gems |

Instructions

1. Use your ruler to draw a large X on the back of your paper plate. This will create four triangles
2. Cut two triangles out of your plate to make your butterfly
3. Glue your butterfly decorations to your butterfly. Remember to keep your design symmetrical

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4. Wrap a pipe cleaner around the center of your butterfly. Twirl the ends to make their antennae

Review

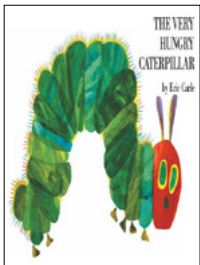
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Objects with reflective symmetry can be divided into two parts that are mirror images of each other. The dividing line between these two parts is called the line of symmetry. Butterflies are beautiful examples of symmetry in nature. Where is the line of symmetry on a butterfly? What else has symmetry in nature? Talk a walk and see what you can discover!

This time of year, you might also find caterpillars on your walk. Butterflies are insects that begin life as a caterpillar. Caterpillars are very hungry and spend their time eating. Look for them on the leaves of plants. Once they are ready, caterpillars will form themselves into a chrysalis. While in their chrysalis, the caterpillars undergoes metamorphosis; its caterpillar body are transformed into butterfly body parts. Once the butterfly is completely formed, they will emerge from they're chrysalis a beautiful butterfly. What other animals go through metamorphosis?

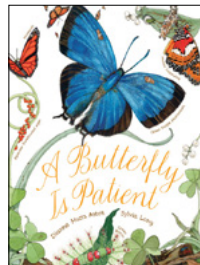
Books to Explore

Through the [Libby app](#) and your library card, you can read eBooks about painting and art with your little one



The Very Hungry Caterpillar
by Eric Carle

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A Butterfly is Patient
By Dianna Hutts Aston

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Pete the Cat and the Cool Caterpillar
By James Dean

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