



BUTTERFLY WINGS

Episode: "Where Have All the Butterflies Gone?" (11 min.)

Oh no! A long-awaited play date with Daisy's butterfly friends is at risk because there are no flowers around for the butterflies to feed on. When all seems lost, Nature Cat steps up to save the day. He and his pals decide to build a new butterfly garden before the butterflies have to fly off.

Episode curriculum goal: Butterflies come from caterpillars that need special "host" plants to survive.

Clips on PBSKids.org: "Butterfly Garden!"; "Squeeks' Butterfly Friend"

*To view clips, visit PBSKids.org/video, click on Nature Cat and select Browse.

Goal of Activity:

Create a colorful butterfly using the unique process of "blob painting" to illustrate symmetry.



The Basics:

Number of children: Any number. Younger children may need help from an adult.

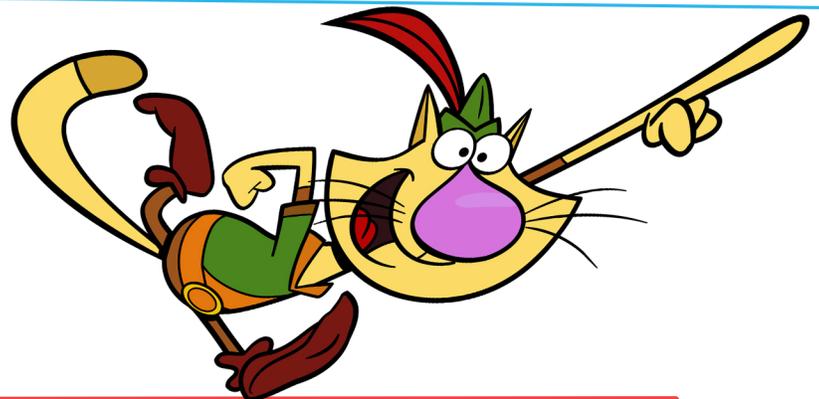
Space: Child height tables.

Time: 15 minutes (not counting drying time for the paint).



What You'll Need:

- 8.5" x 11" White Paper
- Washable Liquid Tempera Paint- variety of colors (4-6 choices)
- Paper Cups for Paint
- Craft Sticks (10-12)
- Crayons
- Smocks



Preparation (before children arrive):

- Child-height tables, preferably in a designated art space if possible.
- Cover the tables with paper, and tape it down at ends.
- Have materials ready and smocks available.

Tally Ho! Directions:

- 🍃 Invite children to create a butterfly painting using the “blob painting” technique. Before painting, have a discussion with children by asking the following questions:
 - 1) What can you tell me about butterfly wings? (Children may talk about colors, size, etc. Guide them to notice that a butterfly’s wings look the same on each side of its body. They’re symmetrical!)
 - 2) Why do you think the colors and patterns on a butterfly’s wings are useful to them? (The colors and patterns camouflage the butterfly to help it hide from predators, attract other butterflies as mates and (in some cases) alert predators that a butterfly is poisonous.)
- 🍃 Let’s get started! First, put on a smock.
- 🍃 Take a sheet of paper and write your name on it
- 🍃 Fold your paper in half.
- 🍃 Use a craft stick to drop a few small blobs of paint onto one side of a piece of paper. Use different colors. Try not to make the blobs too big.
- 🍃 Fold the paper in half again so the clean side touches the painted side. Press down gently on the paper so that the blobs of paint spread.
- 🍃 Unfold your paper. Let’s see your butterfly wings!
- 🍃 What do you notice about your painting? (Both sides are symmetrical. They look like mirror images, similar to butterfly wings.)

Onward and Yonward! Take It Further:

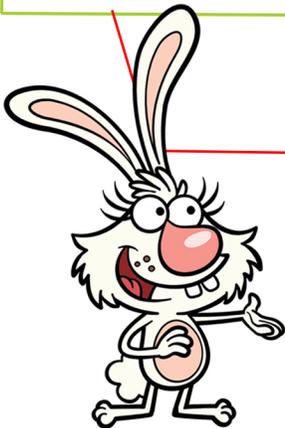
Things to talk about: As children explore the activity, ask questions like:

- 1) Can anyone tell me what a butterfly does when emerging from its chrysalis to get its brand new wings ready to fly? (Pump its wings. This gets the color to all areas of the wings)
- 2) Did you notice anything about a butterfly’s wings? Guide children toward discussing symmetry.
- 3) What is symmetry? (Something is symmetrical when both of its sides look the same.)

Look in a Book:

To read more about butterflies, check your local library for books like these:

- 🍃 Marsh, Laura. **National Geographic Readers: Caterpillar to Butterfly.** National Geographic Children's Books, 2012.
- 🍃 Wallace, Karen. **DK Readers: Born to Be a Butterfly.** DK Children, 2010.



Partnership



The Butterfly Wings Activity was created in partnership with Kohl Children’s Museum.