Fragile Butterfly

Crayola Supplies
- Air Dry Clay
- Paint Brushes
- Tempera Paint
- Other Supplies
- craft strips
- paper towel
- recycled newspaper
- toothpicks
- water containers

Suggested Curriculum

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Curriculum</th>
<th>Grades 1-3</th>
<th>4-6</th>
<th>7-9</th>
<th>Special needs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Language Arts</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
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<td>Science</td>
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<td>Social Studies</td>
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<td>Visual Arts</td>
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Why

Show that you know butterfly anatomy—and line symmetry! Sculpt a clay butterfly that is fragile, beautiful, and realistic.

Benefits

- Students learn the different parts and life cycle of butterflies.
- Students make a replica of one of the thousands of types and colors of butterflies, or create an butterfly species.
- Students’ sculptures reflect line symmetry (butterfly halves are mirror images) and are colorfully painted.

Directions

1. Find out about butterfly life cycles and anatomy. Choose one species to make, or imagine your own colorful butterfly. Will your butterfly be flying, resting, or getting ready to take off? With Crayola Air-Dry Clay Paint, your students can choose their butterfly as you wish.
2. On a clean, dry surface, use your fingers or a rolling pin to flatten a tempera paint ball of clay. Cut out two identical wings with a safe tool such as a craft stick or clean paintbrush.
3. Roll a small piece of clay for the body. Lightly scratch the edges of where the wings and body meet will add a toothpick. Carve arms with a slightly sanded finger and place together. Use the same technique make and attach antennae and other body parts.
4. If you like, emboss your butterfly with small bits of clay. Knead the clay with your hands. A second set of wings to make your butterfly’s ‘body’ is flying. Smooth out any rough edges with a damp finger. Add your butterfly’s body for about 45 minutes.
5. Cover your art set with newspaper. Carefully paint your butterfly with Crayola Tempera Paint and brushes. Air-dry each color and move your brushes before changing to another color.
6. Handle your butterfly sculptures with care! They are fragile just like real ones. Why not create a colorful display of your art class for your friends to enjoy?

Adaptations

- Talk about the various wing patterns and why butterflies are different colors. What other animals or insects have built-in camouflage?
- Butterflies are found in many parts of the world. Visit a butterfly farm or observe butterflies in their natural habitats.
- Assessment: Ask students to label and correctly label butterfly body parts and life cycle. Understanding that all means that certain parts are not represented accurately. Note the creative use of color in decorating the butterfly.

Safety Guidelines

Be safe by using a smooth and safe surface. Make sure that no children are touching the butterflies when you are not present. Make sure that no children are touching the butterflies when you are not present.

Model Name® and other modeling compounds: Keep finished product away from open flame. Do not mold into candle holders or other objects for use around flames. Do not put in ovens, microwave, or kilns.

Wash your hands with soap and water after you complete your project.

Related Resources

Books
- An Extraordinary Life by Laurence Pringle
- The Butterfly's Anatomy by Ken Kelli
- The Mystery of the Butterfly Garden by Elspeth Campbell

Lesson:
- Fish Story—"Catch a Colorful Story From Crayola Rocket Minds™"
- Glide & Solve: World's Most Colorful From Crayola Rocket Minds™
- "Art Work—Build a Butterfly From Crayola Rocket Minds™"

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