Today's Featured Activity: Butterflies

The recent beautiful sunny weather has provided a great opportunity to see many butterflies out and about. Some butterflies, like the Eastern tiger swallowtail caterpillar make a chrysalis and overwinter here tucked under tree bark or in the leaf litter, which is why you often see these butterflies before you see another well-known butterfly, the monarch. As you may know, the monarch butterflies make an epic journey back from Mexico every spring, and we should be starting to see them soon.

Today, we encourage you to take some time to go on a butterfly exploration. Don’t forget your nature journal or some paper and pencils, so you can draw and write about the butterflies you’re seeing.

• First, find a spot where you’ve seen butterflies before, or where you might expect to see them, like a place with a lot of flowers. As you come across a butterfly, draw a picture of it, making note of what colors you saw and any patterns on the wings. You might ask yourself questions like: what do their antennae look like? If you see more than one butterfly, do they look the
Pay attention to see if the butterflies are alone or in a group. Did you know that a group of butterflies is called a kaleidoscope? Or that when you see a group of them in a wet spot it’s called puddling? Did you see either of these activities?

If you have space to plant a butterfly friendly garden or even a couple of potted plants, you can help attract butterflies by planting the right flowers. The National Wildlife Federation has a list of plants that will attract your favorite butterfly based on where you live. Even if you don’t have space to plant a garden you can create some helpful areas for them like a place for them to have a puddle club!

Make this simple butterfly feeder to attract more butterflies to your yard. If the weather isn’t great or you can’t get outside to look for butterflies here are some ways to enjoy butterflies indoors:

- Make a melted crayon butterfly on paper or waxed paper
- Make a butterfly sun catcher using a recycled bottle, a marker, and quick drying paint.
- Print some of these butterfly coloring pages to match the butterflies you saw on your walk.

Did you do this activity? Post a photo on Instagram and tag @clctrust or use #clctrust.

Have suggestions for activities you’d like to see? Send us an email!

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