



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

same? How are they different?

- 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 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!](#)