

Lesson #33 MAGIC BUTTERFLIES

Grade level: K-5

Description/Objective

Creating collage butterflies and their environments.

Start with the Arts - for younger children Introduce this project by first reading one or more of the suggested stories at the end of this lesson. Take a moment to discuss the story. Emphasize the artwork that illustrates the story The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle. How do you think the artist created these pictures?

Time

45 minutes

Materials

Examples of pictures of caterpillars, cocoons and butterflies

A book about butterflies

Drawing or construction paper cut into a variety of butterfly shapes

Assorted papers for collage, tissue paper, sequins, bits of ribbon, lace, yarn

Glue

Scissors

Markers, crayons

Objects for printing, such as spools, Styrofoam pieces, strips of corrugated cardboard, cut pieces of sponge

Thick tempera paint

Aluminum pie tins or heavy-duty paper plates for the paint

Brushes

Paper towels

Procedure

1. Cut drawing or construction paper into a variety of different butterfly shapes.
2. Set up a printing area:
3. Cover a table with newspaper.
4. Pour a small amount of thick tempera paint into pie pans.
5. Display objects for printing on a tray or shallow box.
6. Have brushes and paper towels handy.

Learning objectives:

1. Recognize the life stages of a butterfly.
2. Build vocabulary related to butterflies.
3. Identify the sequence of events.

4. Use collage materials and glue.
5. Use a printing technique.
6. Create a butterfly and an environment for its home.

Where did you see this type of artwork before? Introduce the term "collage". Do you think Mr. Carle cut his papers or did he tear them? What other art materials do you think he used? Introduce the life stages of caterpillars, cocoons, and butterflies. Introduce the word "metamorphosis".

Encourage your child to talk about their experiences with caterpillars and butterflies. Did a caterpillar ever crawl on your arm? Where did you see a butterfly? What was the butterfly doing?

Invite children to create an environment for their butterflies to live by using a printing technique. The objects for printing can create grass, trees, bark, leaves, etc. Demonstrate and then have children:

Select a printing object or "tool".

Dip it into the paint or brush on the paint.

Press it one or two times on a paper towel to get rid of excess paint.

Stamp the "inked" object onto the background.

Continue to print/stamp until the paint on the tool is dry.

Repeat the process with another tool.

Now your child is ready to create a special butterfly or two with collage materials. Provide them an assortment of different butterfly shapes. Have your child:

Select their butterfly-shaped paper(s).

Cut and/or tear an assortment of papers into various shapes to decorate the butterfly's wings.

Glue or paste the shapes to the body.

Add details and more designs with sequins, bits of ribbon, lace and yarn.

Use markers or crayons to embellish the wings if your child wishes.

Glue the butterfly to the printed environment/background that your child made earlier. Make sure it's dry first.

Talking About Art

Tell us about your butterfly and the environment in which it lives. How did you create your

butterfly? What art materials did you use? What was your favorite part of this activity? What was most difficult?

Read With Me-Suggested Reading - Books about butterflies:

Caterpillar, Caterpillar by Vivian French, Illus. by Charlotte Voake

Charlie the Caterpillar by Dom Deluise, Illus. by Christopher Santoro

Darkness and the Butterfly by Ann Grifalconi

Eating the Alphabet: Fruits and Vegetables From A to Z by Lois Ehlert

I Wish I Were a Butterfly by James Howe, Illus. by Ed Young

In The Small, Small Pond by Denise Fleming

Little Blue and Yellow by Leo Lionni

The Beautiful Butterfly: A Folktale From Spain by Judy Sierra, Illus. by Victoria Chess

The Butterfly Boy by Laurence Yep, Illus. by Jeanne Lee

The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle

Where Butterflies Grow by Joanne Ryder, Illus. by Lynne Cherry

Key Vocabulary: caterpillar, cocoon, butterfly, metamorphosis, environment, author, illustrator, collage, printing