

Butterfly Garden

Ages: all

Explore: Butterflies are pollinators. They are attracted to brightly colored and highly scented flowers. As they flit from flower to flower they drink nectar, and distribute pollen. Observe the variety of butterflies in your area. Notice the flowers butterflies are on. What kinds of flowers are there?

Note: Butterflies and moths are different. Butterflies have thin antennae with knobby tips, moths are feathery. Butterflies fly during the day; moths fly at night. Butterflies rest with their wings up together over their backs; moths open their wings flat out.

Create: Decide what kinds of flowers you would like to plant to attract butterflies. Decide where to plant them. Start seeds or plant seedlings. Do this as early in the season as possible and watch the blossoms attract a variety of beautiful butterflies. Delight in the colorful and active wonderspace that bustles with butterfly activity.

Some flower suggestions: hollyhock, impatiens, butterfly bush, Indian blanket flower, purple coneflower, zinnia, cosmos, sweet william, phlox, nicotiana, verbena, petas, black-eyed susan, marigold, and butterfly weed.

Reflect and Share: What kinds of butterflies did your flowers attract? What colors and shapes and sizes are they? What is the same about them? What is different? How do they move, cling to flowers, and sip? What flowers have the most butterflies on them? Do any have eggs? Caterpillars?

Why: Self direction, motor planning, creativity, sense and knowledge of place, caring for others, asking questions, making observations, gathering information, planning and carrying out investigations.

Inspired by: Leslie

Photos: (Below)

