

SYMMETRY- THE BUTTERFLY

Have you ever looked closely at a butterfly basking with its wings open in the sun? What do you notice? Well, there are lots of things to look out for but for this activity look at the shape and pattern of the wings. The patterns on the wings are identical and the wings are symmetrical. If the left handside is the mirror image of the right hand side we say that it is symmetrical.

In this activity you will make your very own butterfly, choosing the shape of the wings, its pattern and colours but remember both wings should be symmetrical. **Please ask for the help of an adult to complete this activity.**

What you will need:

Pencil

Large sheet of paper

Thin card (an old cereal box will do)

Scissors

Colouring pencils or water-based colouring paints



Use some large paper and with a pencil draw out the shape of your butterfly. **TIP:** As the shape is symmetrical fold the paper in half and draw half the body. Do so with the folded line marking the middle of the butterfly's body. Remember to include its head, feelers and body. When you are happy with the shape carefully cut it out – please ask an adult to help you cut around the difficult bits. Next, open the fold and remove the cut out centre and you should have a butterfly outline. This can then be used as a stencil. This can now be placed over the card. Now the fun part – design and colour in the wings of the butterfly. Remember to make the patterns on each wing identical!! Tricky isn't it?

While you do this hold the stencil firmly in place to stop it slipping or use some masking tape. Undo the tape and lift off the stencil to reveal your butterfly. You can cut out the butterfly and use it to decorate your classroom or bedroom at home. Leave the stencil to dry and you will be able to use it again.

Have you thought of a name for your butterfly, why not name it after its colour or striking pattern?

Why not make stencils of other animals and use them to make birthday cards!!