BUTTERFLY WANDS

OVERVIEW

In this art lesson, students use watercolor paints to create their own butterfly using the mathematical concept of symmetry.

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

Students will demonstrate an understanding of symmetry by creating a butterfly.

VOCABULARY

- **WING** – a specialized paired appendage that enables an insect to fly
- **SYMMETRY** - being the exact same on both sides of an axis

MATERIALS

- Butterfly Wand Template (included)
- White copy paper
- Watercolor paints, crayons, markers, colored pencils – choose your medium!
- Water (if using watercolor paints)
- Scissors
- Tape
- Coffee stir sticks, small straws or popsicle sticks for handles
- Collection of books about butterflies with lots of pictures for inspiration
- Glitter glue for embellishment (optional)

SET-UP

1) Spend some time reading and looking at many butterflies, either through picture books or other resources (photos, etc.). Make sure to include butterflies that have symmetrical wing patterns and others that do not.
2) Copy Butterfly Wand Template onto regular copy paper.
3) Gather materials.
4) Prepare a space for painting and/or messy art.
5) Write names on butterfly templates before decorating begins.

LESSON PLAN

1) Today we are going to create our own butterfly! As we have learned, most butterflies are symmetrical, meaning that the pattern on their wings is the same on both sides. We also have learned that there are some butterflies that are not symmetrical. You get to choose whether your butterfly will be symmetrical or not.

2) If choosing to use watercolor paints as your medium, demonstrate how to use them if they haven’t been used before. Remind students not to use too much water if they want their colors to be bright.
3) Have students paint/color in an area protected from messy art using the **Butterfly Wand Template**. Allow butterflies to dry overnight.

   **Educator Note:** It may be helpful to place something heavy on top of paper overnight to keep paper flat.

4) The following day, cut around finished butterfly. Slightly fold finished template in half to help wings to flap.

5) Tape handle to the back of the butterfly. Test flapping of wings by moving handle. Modify fold if needed so wings flap freely.

6) Fly butterfly wands!

**SUGGESTED READING/ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

- [http://www.nea.org/tools/butterfiles-free-learning-resources.html](http://www.nea.org/tools/butterfiles-free-learning-resources.html)