

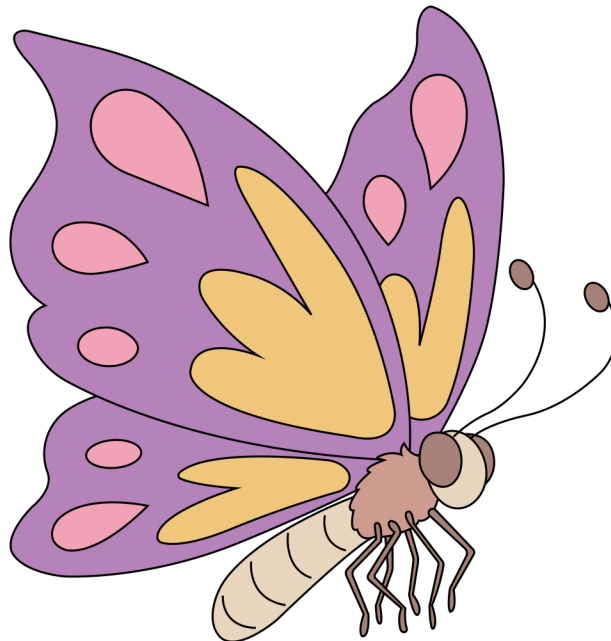
# Butterfly Costume

You will need a parent or trusted adult to help you with this activity !

Butterflies are the adult flying stage of certain insects. These insects belong to an order or group called Lepidoptera (say *Lep-puh-dop-tuh-ruh*). The word "Lepidoptera" means "scaly wings" in Greek. This name suits the insects in this group because their wings are covered with thousands of tiny scales. Butterfly scales are arranged in colorful designs unique to each species .

Like other insects, butterflies have **six legs** and three main body parts: **head**, **thorax** (chest or mid section) and **abdomen** (tail end). They also have **two antennae** and an exoskeleton.

Butterflies have capitate antennae which means they are long and thin in the middle but end in a thicker lump, kind of like a golf club.



They roam about looking for food. Butterflies are able to feed only on various liquids. They drink through a tube-like tongue called a proboscis. It **uncoils to sip** liquid food, and then **coils up again into a spiral when the butterfly is not feeding**. Most butterflies prefer flower nectar, but others may feed on the liquids found in the ooze from trees too. When butterflies are on the ground licking dirt, they're searching for nutrients in rotting fruit or animal dung. This is called puddling.

In this activity you will explore the different parts of a butterfly while making a butterfly costume!

Here's what you will need:

- Empty cereal box or poster board
- Scissors
- Craft supplies (anything than you can decorate your wings with such as tissue paper, cotton balls, crayons, fabric strips, markers, paints, pom poms, tinfoil)
- Pipe cleaners
- Glue or tape
- Hole punch
- Elastic string or yarn (about two feet long)

### Now it's time to make your costume!

1. You will need wings and antennae.
2. If you are using poster board skip ahead to step 4.
3. Disassemble the empty cereal box by cutting along the edge of **one** side panel. Lay the box flat with a side panel in the center of the front and back panels.
4. Draw wings on each side of the poster (remember to leave about 2 inches for the center panel) or cereal box. You can use pictures of butterflies to help with the shape.
5. Cut out the butterfly wings.
6. Think about the butterflies you have seen to help you choose the colors and patterns to use on your wings. Use tissue paper, colorful paper, fabric or paint to create color and patterns for your wings.
7. Between the wings, punch two holes at the top and two holes at the bottom.
8. Thread the yarn through the holes, creating two loops so that you can wear the wings like a back pack.. Tie the ends together.
9. Make a headband with the pipe cleaners. Leave two for the antennae.
10. Make the antennae (remember they end in 'clumps') and attach to the headband.
11. All that's left to do is put on the antennae and wings! Now you're a butterfly!
12. *Share what you've learned with a friend, describing each part of the butterfly.*
13. *You can also drink your favorite juice through a straw and explain how butterflies eat.*

