

Summer Birds: The Butterflies of Maria Merian



RIF EXTENSION ACTIVITIES FOR EDUCATORS

STEAM-THEMED: SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, ART, MATH

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, MATH SET THE SCENE

Visit www.thebutterflyfarm.com for ideas on butterfly farming. Put students into small groups and have each group create a plan to develop their own butterfly farm. Each plan should include the following details: What materials will students need? Where will they find the materials? How long will it take for their farm to see results?



TECHNOLOGY, SCIENCE THE CYCLE OF LIFE

Visit www.monarchbutterflyusa.com/Cycle.htm for an interactive look at the life cycle of the Monarch Butterfly. Can you do the wiggle-jiggle dance?

ENGINEERING, SCIENCE SUMMER BIRD FEEDER

Materials: plastic lid, string, hole punch, construction paper, scissors, glue, ripe fruit

Punch four holes at opposite ends of lid. Cut four pieces of string 12" long; tie one piece of string around each hole. Tie the other ends of the strings together so the lid hangs down. Cut out colorful flowers from construction paper and glue around the lid. When dry, hang outside. Place fruit on the lid and watch for butterflies to come snacking! Record observations about the butterflies on a class chart or in student journals.



ART, MATH BUTTERFLY YLFRETTUB

Materials: paper, paint, paintbrush, pencil

Fold paper in half. In pencil, draw half of a butterfly along the folded edge. Fill in the drawing with paint. Unfold and refold paper, pressing the clean half gently against the painted half. Peel back paper to reveal the whole butterfly. Do both sides look the same?

ART, WRITING POWERFUL POETRY

Have each student choose a style of poetry (haiku, acrostic, etc.) and write a poem inspired by the life cycle of the butterfly. Let students illustrate their poems.



MATH MONARCH MATH

Patterns: Let children use pattern blocks or graph paper to practice mirroring butterfly wing designs.

Measurement: The average caterpillar is between 1" and 1 3/4". What can you find in your classroom that is about the same size as a caterpillar? Make a chart and arrange the items by size. Use a ruler to measure items in your classroom. How long are those items in terms of *caterpillars*?

