

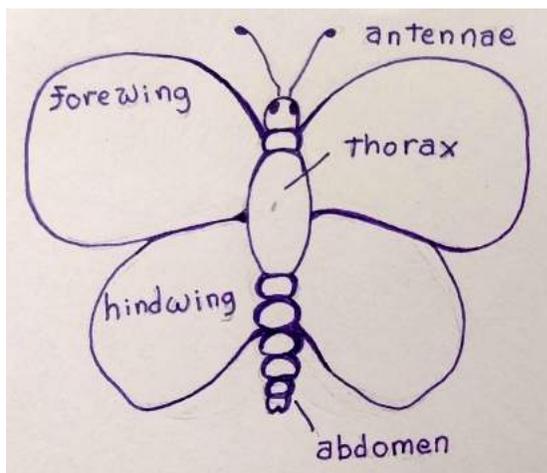
Butterflies, Bold and Bright



People have always been captivated by butterflies, and it's easy to see why. Many butterflies are bright and colorful and look beautiful flying around a garden. Butterflies have been an integral part of the environment, as both predators and prey, for at least 50 million years.

The lifecycle of a butterfly is fascinating. To begin, a female butterfly lays her eggs on the leaves or stems of plants. A caterpillar will grow inside each egg. Once fully formed, the caterpillar will eat through the egg and join the outside world. But it won't have to look far for a meal—it will find its food source right under its stumpy legs and start munching immediately. If you've ever read Eric Carle's *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, you'll know that caterpillars LOVE to eat!

As a caterpillar gets big, it sheds its skin several times to accommodate its growing body. When it is fully grown, it forms a chrysalis—a kind of protective case—in which it will change into a butterfly over a period of about one to three weeks. Once the caterpillar has completed its transformation, the chrysalis will split open. At first, the new butterfly's wings will be wet, soft and wrinkled, but after a couple of hours, they will be dry and strong and the butterfly will take off.



A butterfly has four wings – two on each side. They are divided into two forewings and two hindwings.

Each wing is covered by thousands of colorful scales. All butterfly wings have veins—air-filled tubes that provide structural support. Some scientists believe that these veins help a butterfly hear!



Detail



Many artists have enjoyed painting butterflies. Artists are inspired by both the butterfly's beauty and its unusual life cycle.

This Ancient Egyptian painting is over 3000 years old. It shows a man named Nebamun hunting in the marshes.

Egyptian Tomb Painting, 1350 BC



Van Gogh, *Butterflies*, 1889



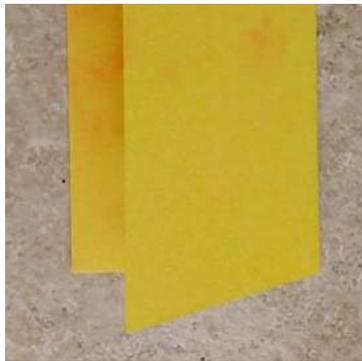
Odilon Redon, *Butterflies*, 1910

It's easy to make your own colorful butterfly collage picture using a paper-folding technique. Read on for instructions



Supplies:

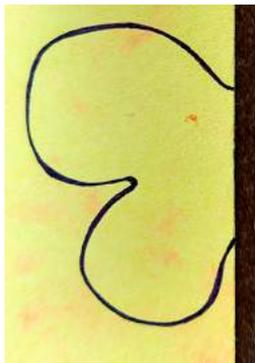
Construction paper or card stock, pencil, eraser, markers, scissors, glue stick



Procedure:

Cut your construction paper or card stock into vertical strips about 4 or 5 inches wide.

Fold each strip vertically and keep the folded part of your paper on your right. (You can reverse directions if you are left-handed.)



Starting against the fold, draw *half* of your butterfly. Draw the forewing first, followed by the hindwing. Leave just a tiny bit of space along the fold so that when you open your paper you will have room for the body.

Cut your butterfly out and open it up. If you're not happy with the way it looks, fold it back up and snip away some more paper.



Draw a pattern on your butterfly. If you want your pattern to be symmetrical, every time you add a new detail to one side, immediately add it to the other side. This is much easier than trying to copy one completed side.

Glue your butterfly onto a piece of paper. Draw the antennas with a fine-tipped marker.

For a more interesting picture, create several butterflies and glue them down. You can also add plants and flowers if you like.