



# Crafts

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## Watercolor Butterflies

### Materials:

- Coffee Filters
- Paintbrush
- Pipe Cleaners
- Cup of Water
- Water-based Markers

### Talk About It:

#### Beautiful Butterflies Made by YOU!

Have you ever seen a butterfly? Butterflies are insects, which means they are small bugs with six legs, two antennae, and usually two pairs of wings. The butterfly starts out life as a caterpillar and later goes through a really big change called metamorphosis. That's when the caterpillar becomes a butterfly! Can you pretend to be a butterfly?

### Make it:

#### Step 1: Things You'll Need

Collect the items from the materials list. (\* Before you begin this activity with your child, make sure your markers are water-based.) Mark a piece of paper, then wet the mark with a little water. If the color runs, your markers are water-based.

**Little Hands Tip:** Talk about how butterflies fly.



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## Step 2: Doodle It

With the markers, doodle and draw on the coffee filters. You might try different coloring techniques—color a lot on one and less on another. Or, try different arrangements of colors.

## Step 3: Just Add Water(color)

Dip a brush into a bowl of water and paint over your drawings and doodles. For a more dramatic effect, dip a coffee filter in the water bowl and let it soak for a few seconds. How do the different colors act when they get a little wet? How do they act when they get really wet? Does anything special happen where two different colors meet?

## Step 4: Let Them Dry Before They Fly

Set the coffee filters out to dry for a few hours. When dry, pinch the coffee filter in the center and hold it in one hand.

## Step 5: Make the Butterfly Body

Wrap the pinched center with string or a pipe cleaner.

## Step 6: Make the Antennae

Make a pair of antennae out of a pipe cleaner and attach it to the center of your butterfly. Remember, all insects have two antennae!

**Little Hands Tip:** Do you know what butterflies use their antennae for? Are they like whiskers on cats and dogs?

## Fly! Flutter! Fly!

Flutter the butterflies around the room! Then, display the butterfly somewhere your child can see it.