

**LEARNING EXTENSION ACTIVITIES FOR
HUMBERTO THE HUMMING BUTTERFLY:
VISUAL ART, SCIENCE-BASED, AND CREATIVE WRITING ACTIVITIES**

VISUAL ART ACTIVITIES

Coffee Filter Butterfly

Materials needed:

- Coffee filter
- Food coloring (your choice of colors)
- Water and waterdropper or small spoon
- Small pie tin or other washable surface
- Clothes pin
- Pipe cleaners
- Tacky glue

Take a coffee filter and place it in the pie tin, then put a few drops of each color of food coloring all over the coffee filter (if you want to make a monarch butterfly like Humberto, use mostly orange food coloring, and a tiny bit of black food coloring along the edges). Add a few drops of water until the entire coffee filter is slightly damp and the colors start to blend. Allow the coffee filter to dry, then hold opposite ends of the coffee filter and twist a couple of times, so that a knot appears in the middle and the coffee filter forms a butterfly shape. Place the coffee filter in the clothespin so that the “wings” fan out on either side of the clothespin. Glue a couple of pipe cleaners on top of the clothespin to make the butterfly’s antennae. Enjoy playing with the butterfly or using it as an ornament or decoration!

Thumbprint Butterfly Picture or Rock

Materials needed:

- Your hand/thumb!
- Stamp pad (black or colored)
- Thick paper or small, smooth rock
- Colored markers or acrylic paint markers

Place your thumb on the stamp pad to cover it slightly with ink, then make a thumbprint in the middle of a piece of paper or a small rock. Your thumbprint will form the “body” of the butterfly; use colored makers (on paper) or acrylic paint (on rocks) to add wings and antennae. Include additional background details such as flowers or grass to your artwork as you feel led.

SCIENCE-BASED ACTIVITIES

Do some research about monarch butterflies! Use your local library, the Internet, and other resources to find information about what monarch butterflies eat, where they live, how they mate, their life cycle and migration patterns, and so much more! Share the information that you have learned with other people! You might want to talk about what you have learned with other family members at dinner time, write a short article/blog that you can post on the Internet, or create an informational comic strip!

Plant flowers that butterflies like in your yard, or in plant boxes on your patio! If you would like to attract monarch butterflies in particular and help increase monarch butterfly populations, plant milkweed since monarch butterflies lay their eggs on milkweed leaves for the caterpillars to eat – talk with a local gardening specialist to find out the best type of milkweed for your geographical area. Adult butterflies enjoy having a variety of plants and flowers to choose from – you may want to try aster, butterfly bush, goldenrod, lantana, lavender, lilac, marigold, sunflower, and zinnia plants for a start! Take photographs of the butterflies when they come to enjoy the flowers!

CREATIVE WRITING ACTIVITIES

Write a short story, poem, or other piece of creative writing featuring butterflies! For example, you might want to write a haiku, a three-line poem that uses the following pattern: Line 1 has 5 syllables, Line 2 has 7 syllables, and Line 3 has 5 syllables.

Butterfly Haiku (sample):
Lovely butterflies
Flying along with the wind
Bringing joy to all

You may also want to include a painting or drawing of butterflies to accompany your written work. Put your imagination to work and enjoy the process of writing and creating!