



Butterflies (Grades K-4)

The Huntsville Botanical Garden currently offers a school field trip for kindergarten through 4th grade students called *Butterflies*. Students satisfy Alabama Course of Study Science Standards in the category labeled Life Science. In addition to spring and fall field trips to the garden children are invited to participate in special butterfly events scheduled throughout the spring as twenty (20) varieties of newly hatched butterflies are released into the Nature Center where waterfalls, ponds, streams, lush vegetation and flowering plants invite visitors to experience this varied and colorful collection of flora and fauna.

Post-visit Activity – Grow a Butterfly Garden

These activities are for those who have attended a Butterflies field trip and want a follow-up activity to be completed at school.

Ranging in size from a few containers placed in a sunny spot to several acres, butterfly gardens can be grown throughout the United States. Throughout the country, the general requirements for butterfly gardening are the same: full sun, nectar source plants, larval host plants, a pesticide-free environment and knowledge of the local butterfly fauna.

Objective:

Learning how to grow a butterfly garden

Materials:

- Containers, seeds, soil

Activity: **Ready, Set, Grow!**

- Early in the spring, fill some small peat pots, egg cartons, or milk cartons with potting soil.
- Plant seeds in containers; then, place them in the sunniest window of your classroom.
- Keep the soil moist. In a week or two your seeds will sprout, or germinate.

- Once the ground begins to warm up and the threat of frost has past (planting zone 7b), transplant the seedlings to your growing site.
- You can also buy small plants from a nursery or garden center.

Post-visit Activity – Tissue Paper Butterflies

Objective:

Fun arts and crafts activity

Materials:

- clothespin, pipe cleaners, colored tissue paper, markers

Activity:

- Cut approximately 10 inch squares of tissue paper.
- Fold the tissue paper "accordion style".
- Clip the gathered paper into the clothespin.
- Bend the pipe cleaner in the middle to form a "V." Bend the ends of the "V" again in order to create little knobs on the tips of the "antennae."
- Clip the bent center of the antennae into the tip of the clothespin.
- Draw eyes on the tip of the clothespin by the antennae.

- **References: Books-**

Butterfly Gardening for the South by Geyata Ajilvsgi

Butterflies of Alabama: Glimpses into Their Lives (Gosse Nature Guides) by Paulette Haywood Ogard

Roots, Shoots, Buckets & Boots: Gardening Together with Children by Sharon Lovejoy

How to Grow a School Garden: A Complete Guide for Parents and Teachers by Arden Bucklin-Sporer and Rachel Pringle

Green Thumbs: A Kid's Activity Guide to Indoor and Outdoor Gardening (A Kid's Guide series) by Laurie Carlson

www.monarchwatch.org

<http://www.gardeningwithkids.org/>