Activity of the month
Make a butterfly wand

April

April is a good time to spot butterflies out in the spring sunshine. Most of these butterflies will have hibernated as fully grown adults or as a chrysalis waiting for the warmer weather. Other species will have spent the winter as an egg or caterpillar and will be seen later in the spring and summer. The newly emerged butterflies get their energy by sucking nectar from spring flowers through a straw-like tube called a proboscis.

Now is the time to explore the Downs to see which of the spring butterflies below you can spot. Then try making your own butterfly wand by following the simple instructions on the following page!

Orange tip

Small tortoiseshell

Brimstone

Holly blue

Comma

Speckled wood

Peacock

Credits: orange tip: Jim Asher; holly blue: Denice Stout; comma: Denice Stout; speckled wood: Denice Stout; peacock; Hetty Upton.

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You will need …

- Plain white thin card or paper
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Pencil crayons or felt tip pens
- Sticky tape
- A long thin stick

Making the butterfly wand

1. Choose which butterfly you would like on your wand: peacock, small tortoiseshell or comma and print it on to the card or paper.

2. Neatly fold the card in half along the straight edge of the butterfly shape (where the middle of the butterfly would be). Fold the wings backwards so that you can still see the pattern on the outside.

3. While the card is still folded in half, carefully cut around the outside edge of the butterfly shape, leaving a thin border.

4. Open out the butterfly. Using your coloured pencils or felt tip pens, carefully copy the patterns and colours onto the blank side of the butterfly making a mirror image.

5. Turn the butterfly over and place the top end of the stick along the centre of the butterfly shape. Attach it to the card with sticky tape.

Butterfly wings are symmetrical. This means that the pattern on one side is like a reflection or mirror-image of the other side.

6. Wave your wand to make your butterfly flutter- by!

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