

Symmetrical Bugs and Butterflies

Primary Lesson Plan

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INTRODUCTION

In this lesson students will create works of art inspired by nature, and learn how to create symmetrical mixed media images of bugs and butterflies.

MATERIALS & TECHNOLOGIES

- pencils, erasers, scissors
- black oil pastels
- watercolour or tempera pucks, brushes
- white construction paper 8"x10"
- coloured crepe paper
- mixed media or watercolour paper 8"x 10"

PRE-CLASS PREPARATION

- gather images of bugs and butterflies/wings and body shapes
- find images of patterns and shapes found in the wings of insects



Creating the Insects

1. Provide students with the images you gathered, and get them to observe and discuss what they notice about the patterns, shapes, and colours. They can choose what sort of insect they'd like to draw.
2. Have students fold the white construction paper in half, or if doing this with younger students, prepare the paper first. Drawing light pencil lines first could help students get started.
3. Next, instruct them to draw shapes on one side of the fold with a black oil pastel.
4. The next step is to draw a body shape for a butterfly, or the parts of a bug's body- head, abdomen, thorax.
5. After each section is completed, they should fold the paper on itself and rub the back with a popsicle stick to transfer the line to the opposite side of the fold. The line will be faint, so when students open up their paper, they will need to go over the transferred lines again with their black pastel.
6. Continue with wings, legs, eyes, etc.
7. When they have finished the basic body structure, they will need to add shapes and pattern to create interest. Remind students that after each line, they fold their paper to transfer. Their designs should be symmetrical.
8. Once black lines are complete, students can use watercolour or tempera pucks to add colour. Focus on patterns with colour and symmetry between the two sides.
9. At this stage, the students need to let them dry, and then cut out the bugs.

Making the Background

1. Cut crepe paper into squares. Students can organize squares on their paper randomly, or in a pattern.
2. Once their paper is filled, the teacher can spray each with a spray bottle, or students add a bit of water with a paintbrush. Not much water is required. Let papers dry with the crepe paper on top.

Finishing

1. Remove the crepe paper. Glue the cut out bug onto the background paper.
- 2.

ASSESSMENT/EVALUATION

Students create a self evaluation based on:

- Symmetry
- Pattern in background
- Careful use of materials

Student Prompts:

- One thing I like about my work:
- One thing I would change:

ADAPTATIONS/MODIFICATIONS

- Use black tempera paint instead of pastel
- Use watercolour or tempera paint for the background instead of crepe paper
- Re-create a specific insect or local species

EXTENSIONS AND POSSIBLE CROSS-CURRICULAR CONNECTIONS

- Grade 2 Science- metamorphic lifestyles of different organisms

The BIG Idea

Creative
expression
develops our
unique identity
and voice.

CURRICULAR COMPETENCIES: *What students will DO*

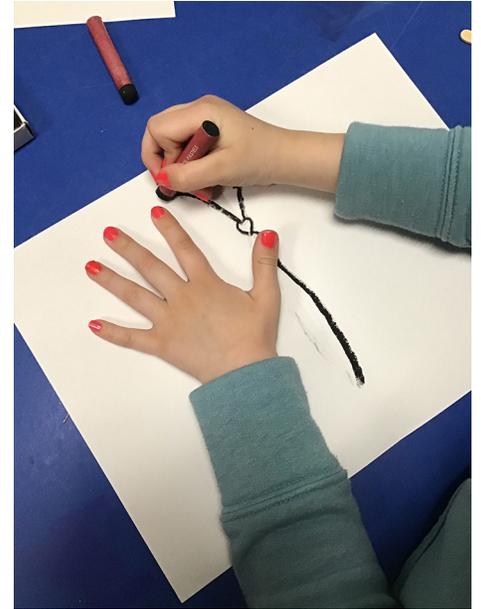
- Explore elements, processes, materials, tools and techniques of the arts
- Develop processes and technical skills in drawing and painting to refine artistic abilities.
- Reflect on creative processes (and potentially connect to other experiences).

CONCEPTS & CONTENT: *What students will KNOW*

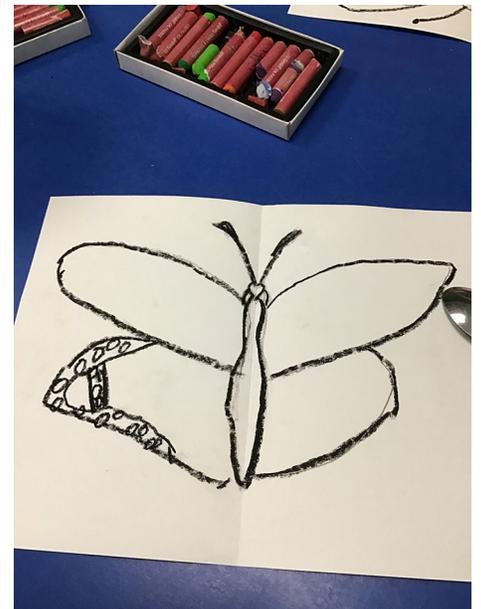
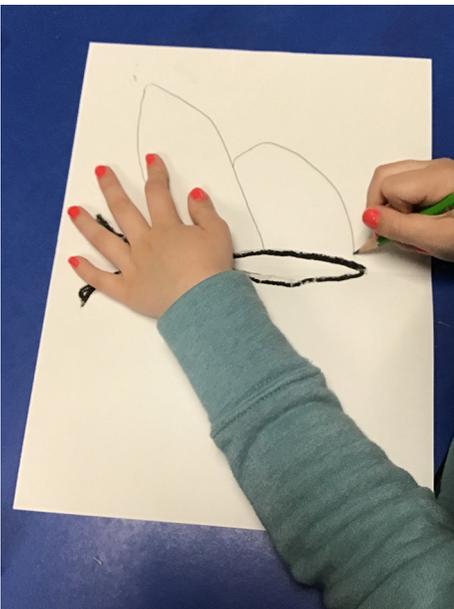
- elements of design (colour, line, shape)
- principles of design (repetition, pattern, symmetry)
- processes, materials, technologies, tools, and techniques to support arts activities (drawing & painting, oil pastel, watercolour, watercolour paper, glue, paintbrush, scissors, mixed media)
- personal and collective responsibility associated with creating, experiencing, or sharing in a safe learning environment (considerate use of materials)

Making a Butterfly

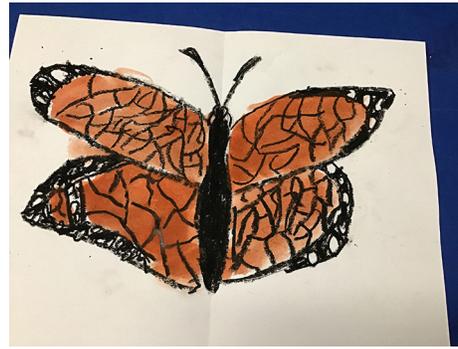
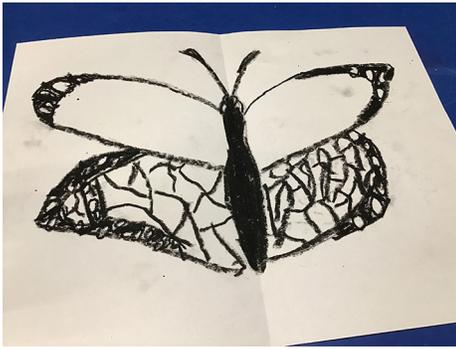
Step-by-Step



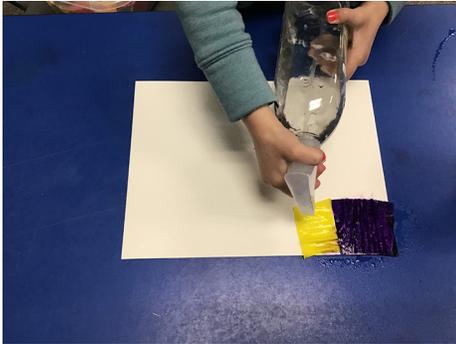
Creating the first side...



...folding it in half to make a mirror image...



...adding patterns and colours...



...making the background with crepe paper placed on watercolour paper and spraying it with water...



Special thanks to Lindsey's daughter for the use of her images.



Now the bug has been cut out and glued onto the coloured paper...finished!