

**1st Grade: March**  
**Lesson 5: Butterflies**  
**Oil and Chalk Pastel**

**Objective:** To create a colorful butterfly using symmetry and shapes

**Technique:** Drawing with oil and chalk pastels

**Set-up: (before lesson starts, docent and aides)**

9"x12" colored construction paper

Chalk pastels

Black oil pastels

Baby wipes

Spray fixative

**Visuals:**

Photographs of butterflies

Sample artwork

**Teaching the Lesson: (1 hour, total)**

Give your aides a brief summary of the lesson

Introduce yourself and your aides

Students will be drawing a detailed, close up and symmetrical butterfly. They will be working with oil and chalk pastels. Show photographs of butterflies. These photographs show different types of butterflies: notice the wing shape and patterns, colors, and symmetry. Today you will create a butterfly of your own design, in a natural setting. Show sample artwork.

1. Review (5 min)

- Pastel use and technique: They resemble chalk, but are quite different. Pastels can be used to draw, sketch, color, add small details, and even to blend and smear like paint or chalk.
- **Holding and applying:** Hold your pastel sideways (NOT a like pencil or crayon), between thumb and forefinger. Press softly but firmly on one spot of the paper; this will give you a short but broad mark/streak.
- **Blocking:** Blocking is filling in a space with color. You can use the side or the tip of the pastels and color in your shapes. Your hand will control how dark or light you want to make the color—a bit more pressure on the pastel may make the color appear darker; and less pressure may make the color appear lighter.

- **Blending:** Blending is done by starting with one color, and rubbing an area/patch of color on the paper; next, lightly rub another layer of color over the first color. These two layers will visually blend and look like a color somewhere in between the 2 colors of the pastels.
- **Tip:** Advise students to BE CAREFUL. Avoid blowing the pastel dust up; rather tilt the paper and let dust fall on your desk. Demonstrate as needed.

## 2. Plan (5 min)

### Review symmetry

- Symmetry is found in the world around us. You can find symmetry in nature, architecture and in art.
- A figure has symmetry when it can be folded and the two halves match and are identical.
- The fold line is called the line of symmetry, or line of reflection. You may find that a shape matches when it is folded horizontally, vertically or diagonally. Shapes may have multiple lines of symmetry or no line of symmetry.
- Lay your drawing paper across your desk in a **landscape** (horizontal) position.

## 3. Draw (15 min)

- Decide on the type of butterfly you want to create. Observe your butterfly; notice what lines, shapes and patterns, and colors you see.
- Fold your paper in half; open back up and sketch half of the torso and wing pattern on half of the paper. When sketch is complete, trace over the outlines with a **black oil** pastel, making a rich, thick line.
- Refold the paper and **rub vigorously** to transfer the image to the other side of the paper (the heat from rubbing will help the transfer). Using the outline, trace the symmetrical image with the black oil pastel to complete the butterfly.

## 4. Fill in and Color (20 min)

- **Hold up two fingers...these two fingers are going to be your "paintbrush."** For pastels, you don't smear colors together with the palm of your hand. All you need are just the tips of your fingers.
- **Wipe fingers in-between colors.** When your fingers get dirty, ask for a wipe to clean them and then you can change colors.
- Working with the chalk pastels, fill in the wings and torso of the butterfly. **Tip: Once a color is filled in on one side, immediately color the same shape on the other side, to ensure both sides are symmetrical.**
- Work from lighter colors to darker colors. Rub with one or two fingers to smooth out colors. Layer additional colors to create depth and color intensity; encourage artists to push the pastels into the paper for richer colors.

5. Complete and Share (15 min)

- Choose natural colors to fill in the background of the butterfly. Add any natural setting details (flowers, branches, leaves, etc.).
- Use the pointy edges of the pastels to add lines and details to their work, leaving them unblended
- Sign name
- Give a title
- Share

**Clean-up: (after lesson ends, docent and aides)**

Close the lesson, clean up the classroom

Spray artwork with pastel fixative **outside** the classroom (do not allow children to be present when spraying and close doors to the classroom)

Line papers on the ground next to each other and allow each to dry for a couple of minutes before returning to classroom.

Return pastels to containers

Return all materials to bin

Return all materials to the art closet

Ask teacher where to store artwork

Arrange time with teacher to display artwork



Photographs of butterflies



Sample artwork: Audrey Butterfly