

Marbled Butterfly Prints

Make colorful butterfly wings with marbled paper!



Materials Needed:

White paper or cardstock, paper plate, shaving cream, food coloring, popsicle sticks, pipe cleaner, markers, scissors, glue, ruler or piece of cardboard.

Instructions:

Step 1: Spray a layer of shaving cream on the paper plate. Smooth it out with a ruler or piece of cardboard.

Step 2: Drop a few drops of food coloring on the shaving cream. Use a popsicle stick to swirl the colors.

Caution: Food coloring can stain clothing, skin, or surfaces.

Step 3: Place a piece of white paper or cardstock on top of the colored shaving cream, and lightly press down.

Step 4: Peel the paper off, and scrape off the remaining shaving cream with a ruler or a piece of cardboard.

Step 5: Let your artwork dry for a few minutes. Cut out two butterfly wing shapes. Make sure the two shapes are mirror images of each other!

Step 6: Assemble your butterfly! Decorate a popsicle stick with markers to make the butterfly's body. Glue the wings to the popsicle stick, and glue pipe cleaners on for antennae (liquid glue works best).



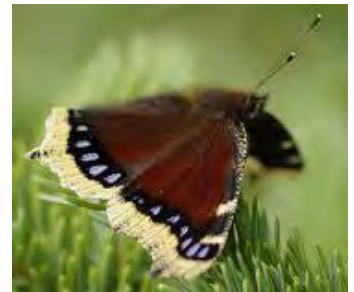
Butterflies in Alaska

There are about 80 species of butterflies in Alaska. They have many adaptations to help survive in cold Arctic environments.

Overwintering: In the winter, Arctic butterflies will go dormant, lying inactive under the snow until warm weather returns. Different species may overwinter as eggs, larva (caterpillars), pupae (chrysalises), or adults.

In Alaska, six butterfly species overwinter as adults, including the Compton Tortoise Shell, Mourning Cloak, and Arctic Anglewing. They produce a special anti-freezing chemical that prevents ice crystals forming in their bodies.

Right: Mourning Cloak (*Nymphalis antiopa*). Image: Wikimedia Commons.



Longer Life Cycles: A caterpillar cannot grow much in a short Arctic summer, so they live for several years as larva (hibernating in the winter) until they are big enough to develop into an adult butterfly.



Tiger Swallowtail
(*Papilio canadensis*)

Staying Warm: Butterflies need to absorb sunlight to stay warm. Each species has a preferred way of basking in the sun. Some spread their wings out, while others fold them at specific angles. Some species have dark wing patterns, which absorb more sunlight.

Did You Know? Butterfly and moth wings are covered in tiny scales. Their scientific name, Lepidoptera, comes from the Ancient Greek words for *scale* and *wing*. The scales are modified, flattened hairs. Butterflies and moths shed scales throughout their life. If you touch a butterfly or moth, some scales might rub off on your fingers; they look like a fine powder.



Butterfly scales under a microscope.

Image: Jennifer Moss Art.

Discover more about Alaska butterflies and see photos of the Kenelm Philip Collection: kenphilipcollection.alaska.edu