



Woodland Art Adventures is
excited to present our 2022
Summer Nature School

Butterflies of Saskatoon





Petursson's Ravine



Saskatoon Grasslands



Northeast Swale

- 3 habitats to explore
- 8 crafts to make
- 1 collaborative art project
- Submit your data collection sheets to receive a Butterfly Ranger button
- 3 prizes

Skills



Biology, ecology, observation, geography, data collection, nature walk

Inspiration

Do you remember discovering butterflies?
Nothing was as magical as an unexpected visit
from a colourful butterfly.

We now understand much about their life cycles, and how people can help butterflies by gardening organically, planting long blooming, nectar-rich flowers, learning about butterflies, and contributing to citizen science.

This guide is full of simple activities to inspire your butterfly journey.
Welcome to Nature School!



This project would not have been possible without the help of many hands, and if we were caterpillars - many feet.

Special thanks to Anna Leighton



and Greg Fenty



for sharing their knowledge, photographs and enthusiasm for getting children out in nature.

My gratitude to Penny



and Andrew



of EcoFriendly West who supported the creation of the laminated butterfly guide for Saskatoon kids.

Thank you to Dave Deplaedt



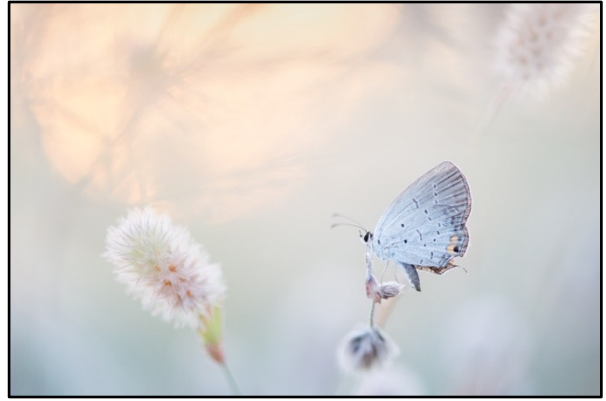
at Canadian Tire Preston Crossing who provided the 3 prizes.

And thank you for joining in to learn about and protect butterflies.



Butterfly Names

Butterflies have interesting and beautiful names. Below are some lists of butterfly names, not all of these are found in Saskatchewan but they can provide inspiration for your summer of butterflies.



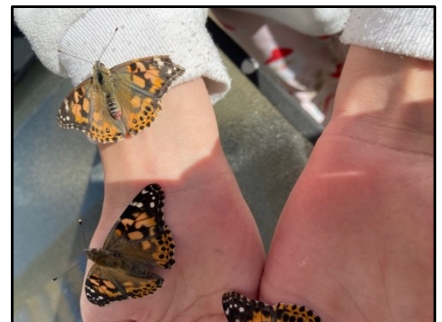
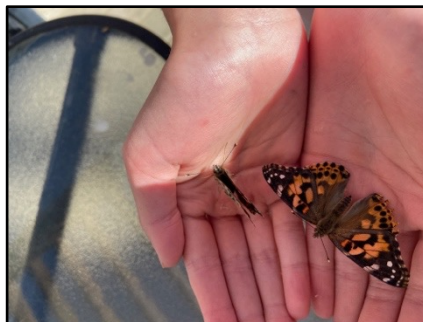
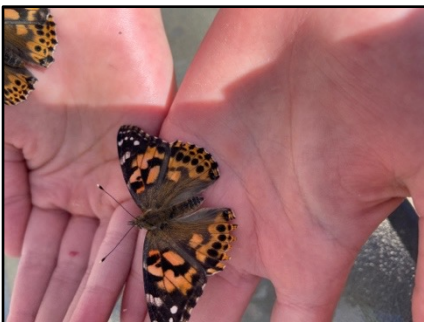
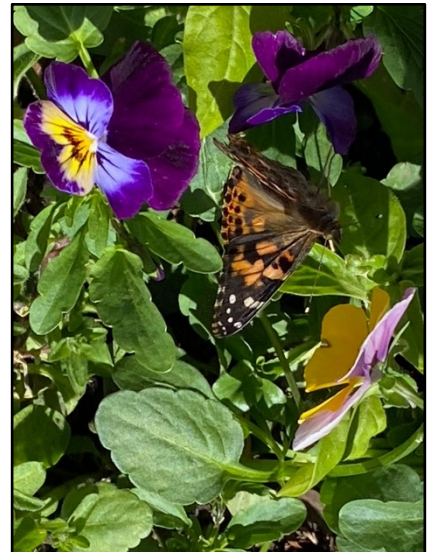
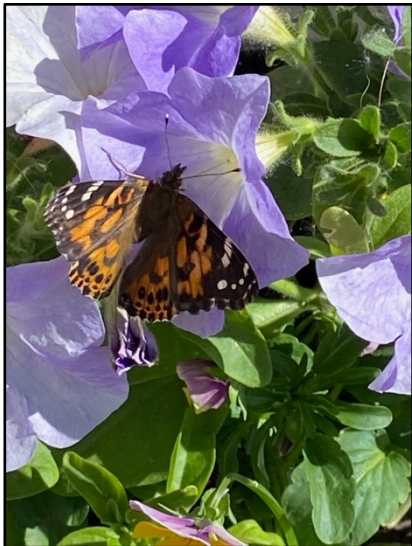
Pearly
Clouded
Cloudless
Mariposa
Sylvan
Sooty
Dusky
Silver-Banded
Arctic
Regal
Meadow
Wandering
Draco
Wild Indigo
Coyote

Orangetip
Hairstreak
Copper
Blue
Elfin
Frosted
Azure
Metalmark
Satyr
Fritillary
Longwing
Purplewing
Leafwing
Duskywing
Skipper

Hatching Butterfly Larvae

Many butterflies lay eggs in fall and in spring the eggs hatch, become caterpillars and eventually butterflies. You can raise butterfly larvae at home, watching the caterpillars grow, form their chrysalis and emerge a few weeks later.

Teacher's Trunk in Saskatoon provides Painted Lady larvae responsibly sourced from Edmonton. Below are some photos of the Painted Lady Butterflies we've helped rear and release into the wild.



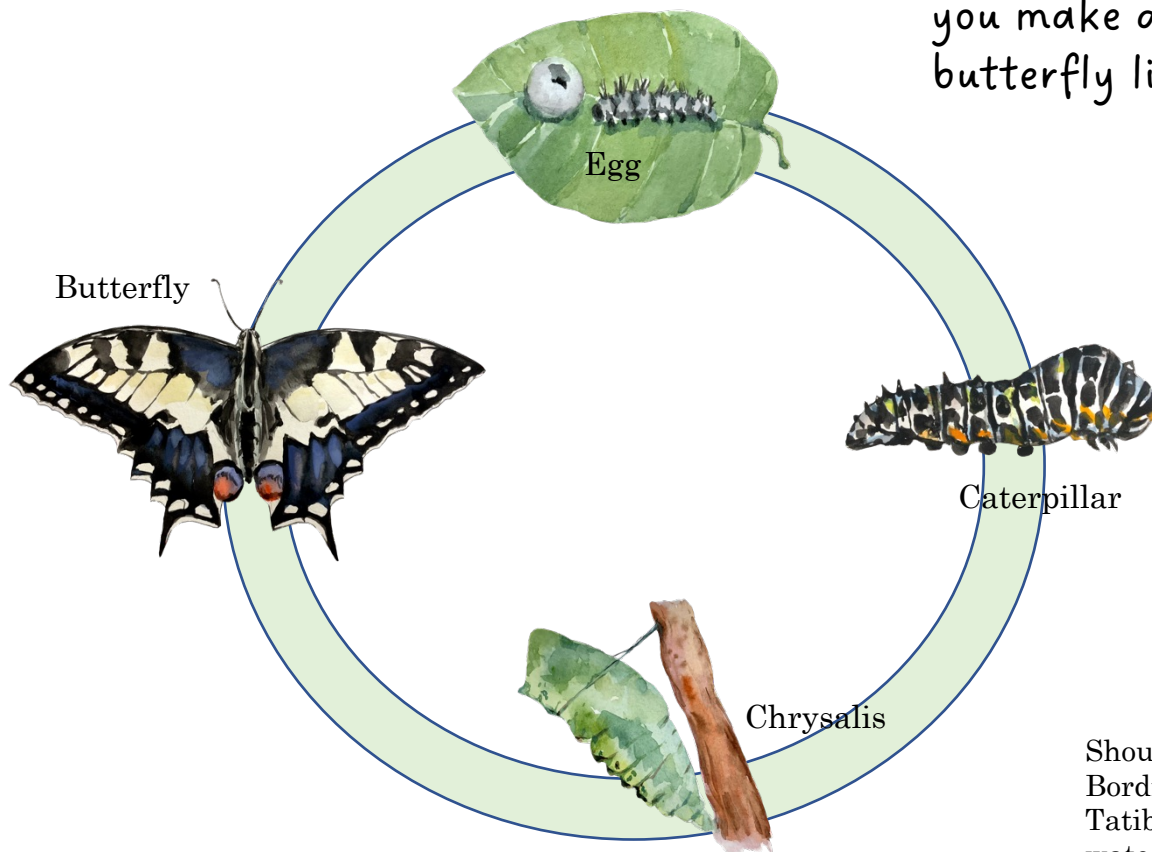
Butterfly Life Cycle

Butterflies like the Painted Lady only live a few weeks before laying eggs and their life cycle beginning again. Over one summer there will be several generations of Painted Lady's born.

Other butterflies like Monarchs fly hundreds of kilometres south to Mexico each fall to overwinter and their offspring return each spring.

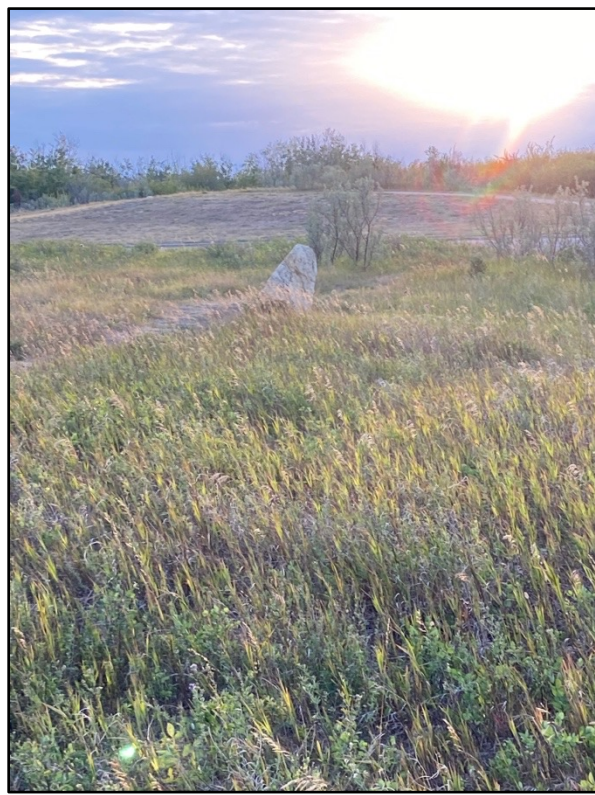


Using paper and pencil crayons can you make a butterfly life cycle?



Shout out to Tatiana Bordiuzhan of Tatibordiu for her watercolour lifecycle.

Saskatoon Natural Grasslands



Mourning Cloaks lay eggs on willows.

Our first ecosystem is the Saskatoon Natural Grasslands, a remnant of uncultivated prairie. There is open grass, low shrubs, but also aspen groves and stands of willow.



Alberta Arctics lay eggs on native grasses. Their population will decline as native grasses are overtaken by exotic species.

The butterflies we are most likely to see here include:

Mourning Cloaks

Blue Butterflies

Alberta Arctic - lay eggs on native grasses

Clouded Sulphur

Swallowtails

Satyr Comma

Grey Comma

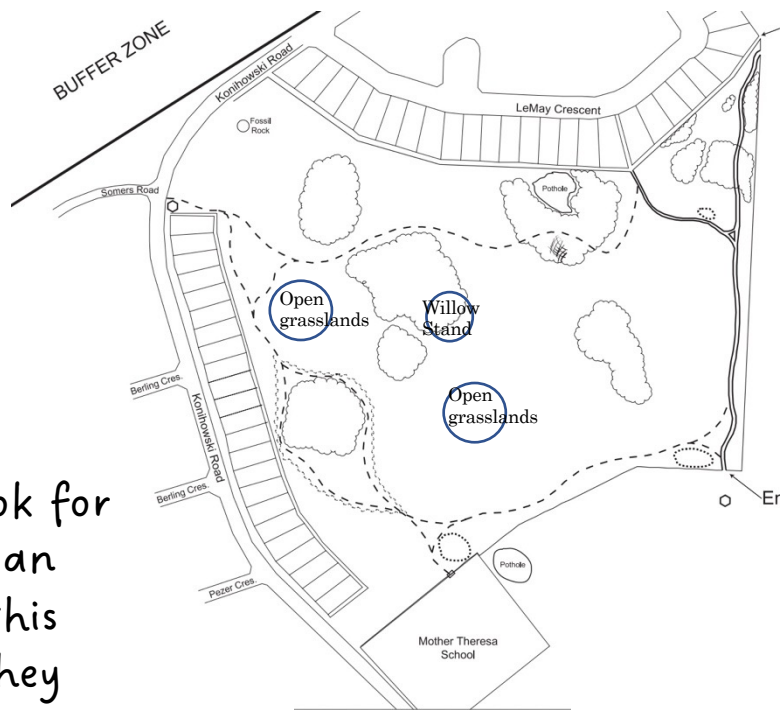
Dividing our Sample Area

The Grasslands are 34 acres which is a lot of space to look for butterflies. Scientists divide an area into smaller portions, this helps them identify where they saw a butterfly, eggs or caterpillars so that they can return to the same spot again and again to monitor populations.

We'll portion three smaller ecosystems from the Grasslands so we can more easily return to gather information.

The map show the three areas. Two are open grassland and one is a willow stand.

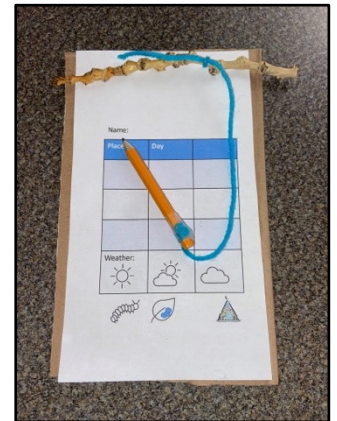
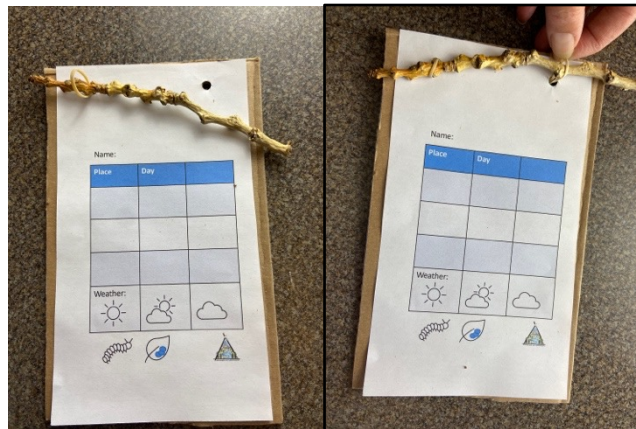
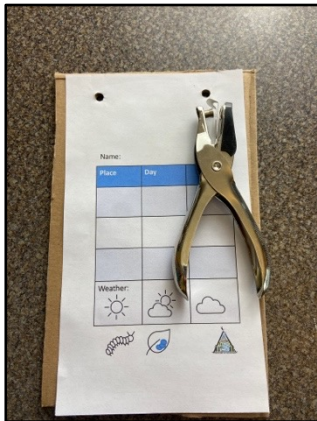
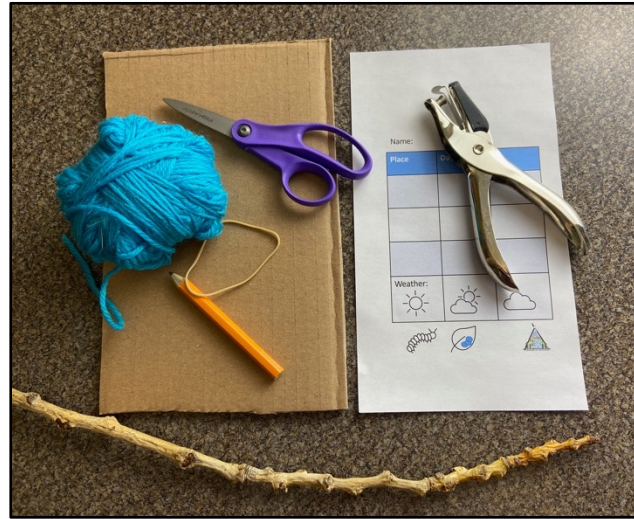
There is a diversity of native wildflowers that grow here including harebells, prairie rose and goldenrod.



Making our Clipboards

You will need a piece of cardboard, a hole punch, a twig, a rubber band, a data collection sheet, a string and a pencil

Step 1: Go on a nature walk and find a twig to hold the clipboard together. You could also use a pencil.






Step 2: Punch 2 holes in the cardboard and the data collection sheet.

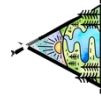
Step 3: Pull the end of the rubber band through the opposite hole and capture both ends of your twig.

Step 4: Tie one end of your string to the pencil and other end to your twig. Secure with tape.




Data sheets

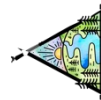
Name:

Place	Day			
Weather: 				



Name:




Place	Day			
Weather: 				



Collecting Data



Name:

Place	Day	
Weather:		
		



These are our data collection sheets. Fill in your name, the place and day.

Then try to identify the butterfly you saw using your butterfly guide. Butterflies move quickly unless they are basking in the sun, and their colours depend on if their wings are open or closed. Do your best.

There are spots to note the weather and whether you saw any caterpillars or eggs on leaves.

Identifying Butterflies and Moths

Usually, we see butterflies during the day and moths at night. Moths are attracted to night light and really depend on white, scented flowers to find nectar. Both butterflies and moths are excellent pollinators!



Butterflies

- Club antennae
- Active during the day
- Fold wings together
- Cooler names

Moths

- Feathery Antennae
- Active at night
- Fold wings down along body
- Often a thicker, hairy body

Citizen Science

Citizen science is a way for interested people to help scientists collect data. Scientists use the data to monitor insect populations and the health and biodiversity of an ecosystem.

There are many citizen science projects out there, some are local and some are Canada-wide and made for kids to participate in. Here are some of our favourites.



Saskatoon Young Naturalists
Bluebird Trail: Young Naturalists have been monitoring bluebird populations since 1969! More information is available at the Saskatoon Zoo Society under Young Naturalists.

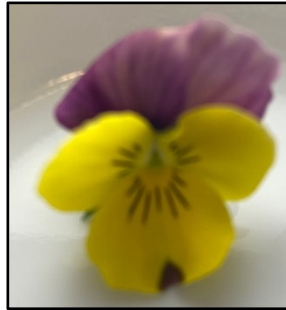


Bird Counts: Each year the Saskatoon Nature Society hosts bird counts at Christmas, Spring and Fall to monitor populations. For more information see the Saskatoon Nature Society webpage.



Project Feederwatch: Choose a site in your yard, choose 1-2 count days per week, check for birds during November - April and share your data to help scientists monitor bird populations.

Flower Petal Ice Pops



Just like butterflies, most of us like sweet treats. These home-made ice pops include fruit, honey or syrup as a sweetener and pansies. There are many edible flower petals that grow in our garden like nasturtium, squash blossom, and roses. Just make sure you check with an adult for safe flower petals to use.

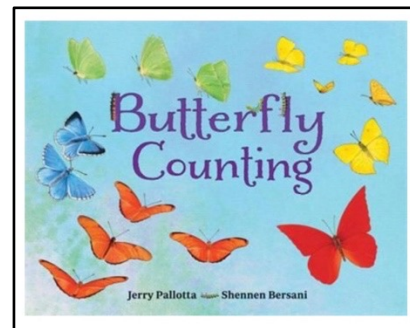
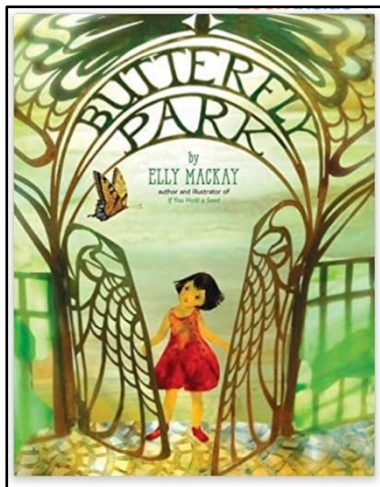
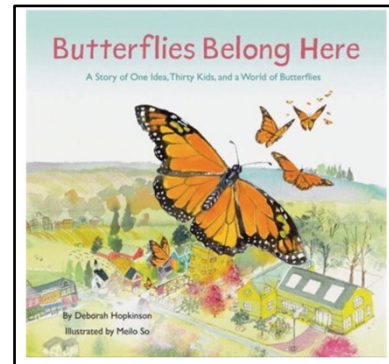
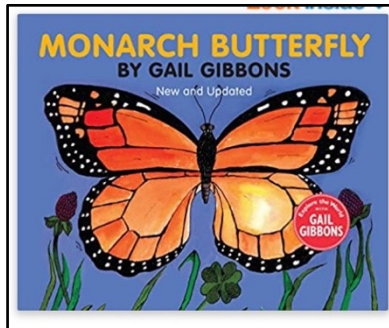


Community Resources

Butterflies have a long tongue called a proboscis, that acts like a straw. Butterflies curl up their proboscis when not drinking.



- Saskatoon Public Library
- Saskatoon Young Naturalists
- Butterfly Garden at the Saskatoon Zoo - opening summer 2022
- Online resources like backyardbutterflies.org
- Apps like Nature Companion and ebutterfly



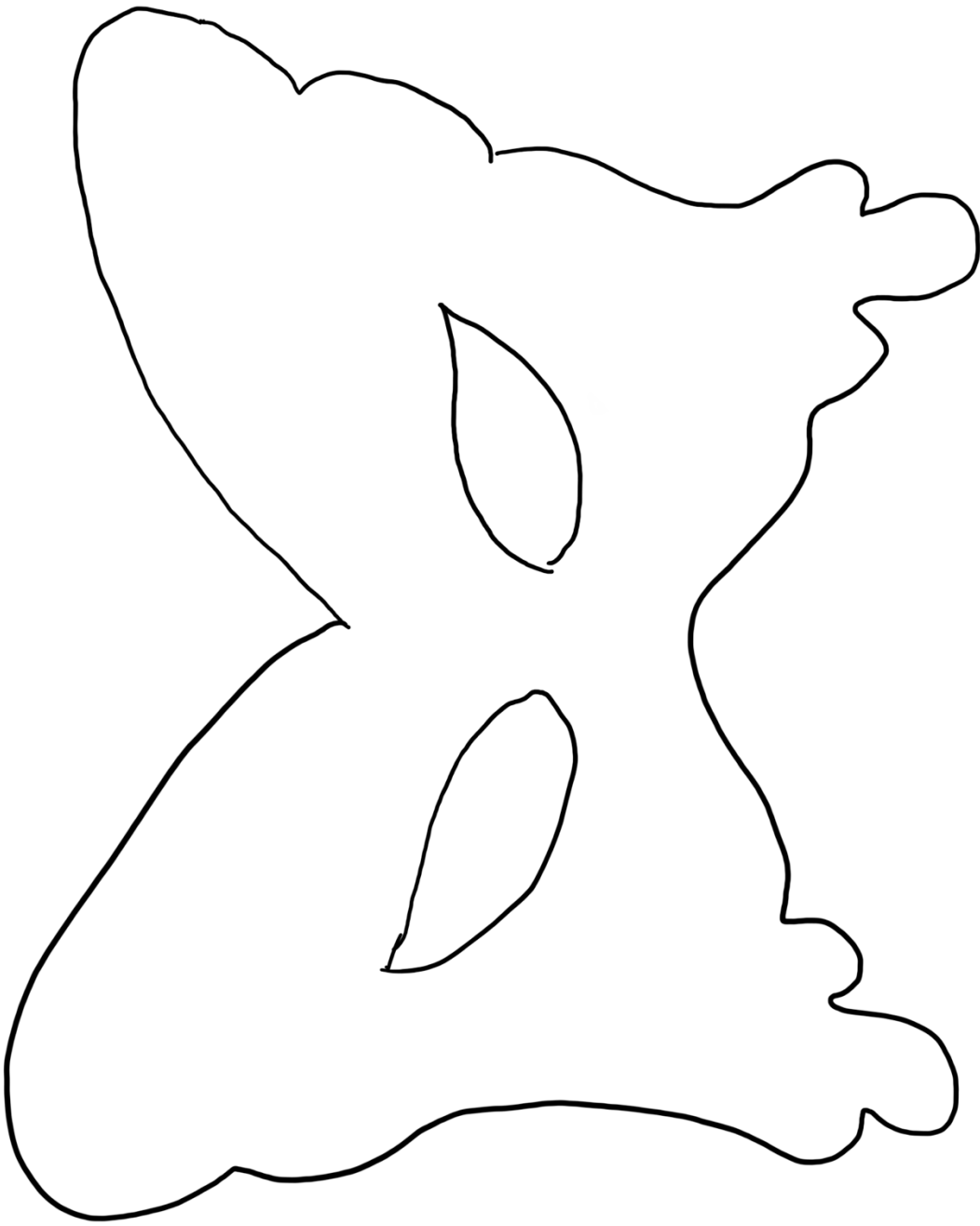
Butterfly Face Masks



Print out the template from the following page, then cut it out and trace onto a piece of cardboard. We like cereal boxes, they are lightweight and durable. Decorate your face mask with oil pastels, markers or pencil crayons. Use a hole punch to add a string to wear your mask.



Butterfly Mask Template



Petursson's Ravine



Petursson's Ravine is located just north of the Crocus Prairie between Central Avenue and leads down the river.

The butterflies we are most likely to see include:

- Wood Nymphs
- Elfins
- Spring Azures
- Silver Blues and Greenish Blues



Wood Nymph

Butterflies have four wings, the wings are covered in tiny overlapping scales.

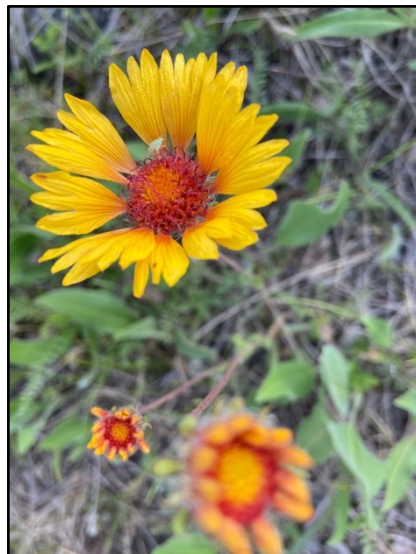
Exploring Different Habitats



- This site contains three different habitats: open prairie, the ravine, and the wooded riverbank.
- We can look for Golden Bean and Three-Flowered Aven in spring. Butterflies are drawn to the Saskatoon and Chokecherry blossoms too.
- In summer we'll see Yarrow, Vetch and Blanketflower.
- In fall the native Sunflowers, Goldenrod, Asters and Thistles are abundant.



Three-Flowered Aven



Blanket Flower



Thistle




Collecting Data: Weather



Butterflies were once called 'summer birds' since they appeared so mysteriously in the warm weather. Butterflies need warm temperatures to fly. On cloudy or rainy days they may hide in a safe space, waiting for sunny weather to return.

Record your weather information here.



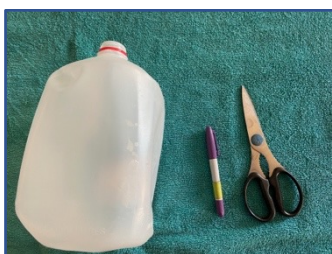
Place	Day	
Weather: 		



The word Lepidoptera is Greek for *lepis* or scale, and *ptera* or wing.

Milk Jug Butterflies

Adults, please help wash out and cut the milk jugs, but the tracing and decorating is kid-approved. Butterfly templates are on the following page.



Clean milk jug, scissors and markers



Cut the flat panels from the milk jug.



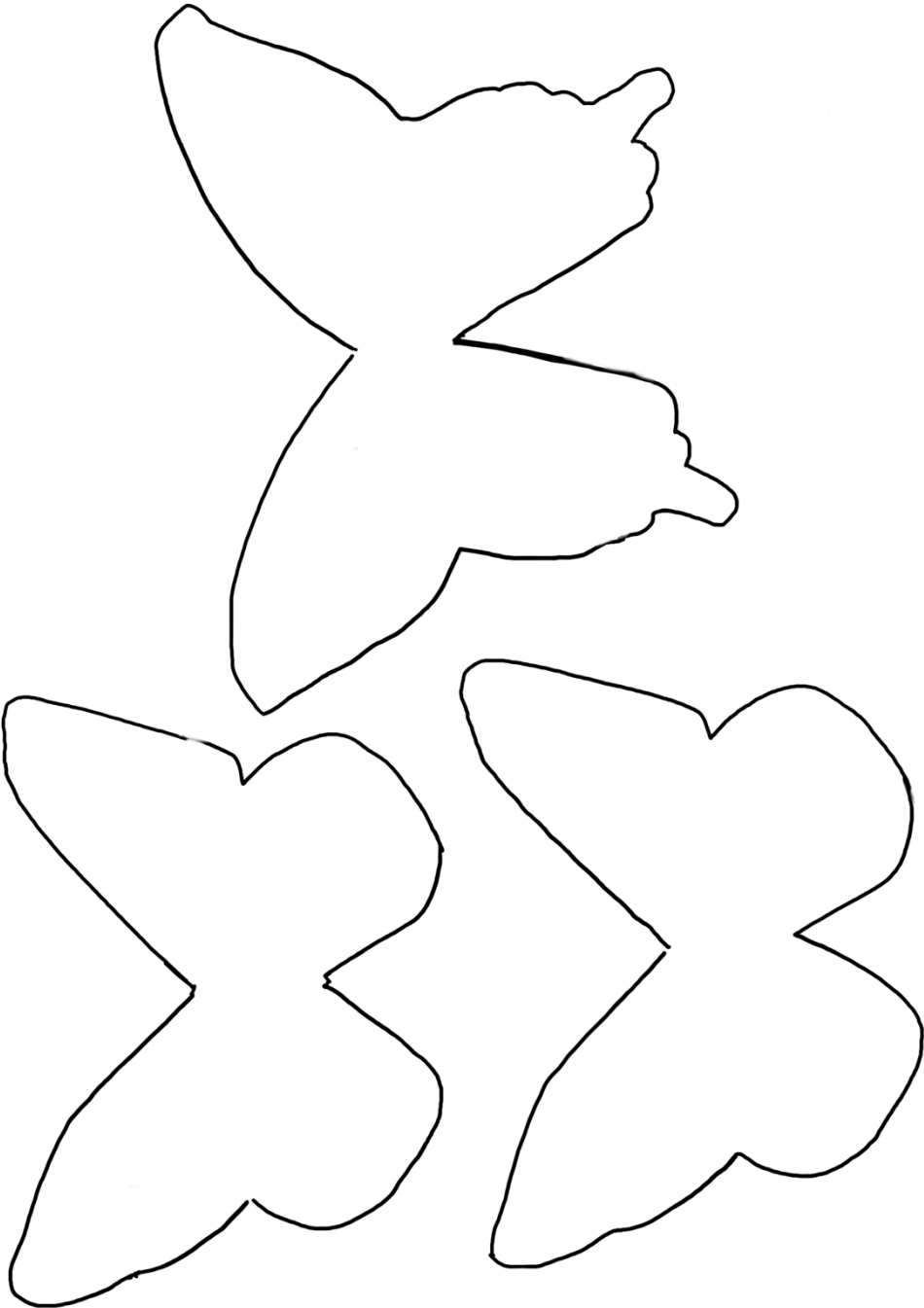
Trace a butterfly using the template.



Colour in your butterflies from your imagination.



Butterfly Templates



Butterfly Sugar Cookies



Recipe

1 cup butter
1 cup white sugar
2 eggs, beaten
1 tsp vanilla
1 tsp baking powder
2 tsp cream of tartar
3 cups flour

Cream butter and sugar. Add eggs and vanilla then baking powder, cream of tartar and flour. Roll out on a floured surface, cut shapes and bake at 375°F for 6-8 minutes.



Butterflies taste buds are in their feet, when they land on a flower they taste with their feet.

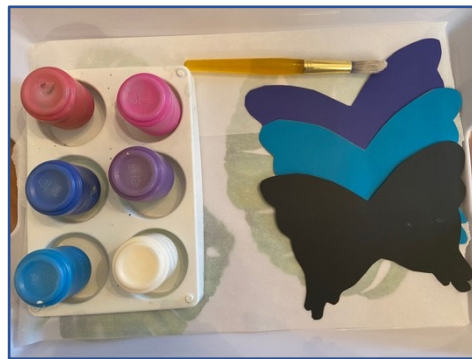
Butterfly Symmetry



We made our butterflies into a spring banner.

The scales on butterfly wings make matching or symmetrical patterns. We use the patterns, and wing shape and size to identify butterflies. Butterflies use the patterns to show who is male and female, and sometimes to deter predators.

The scales on a butterfly do not grow back so please be sure you don't touch them unless necessary.



North East Swale

The Swale is a 26 kilometres long remnant of an ancient river channel. The Swale is wildlife corridor for animals.

There is a mixture of prairie grasses present here, including native fescue grasses.



The butterflies we are most likely to see here include:

- Common Wood Nymph
- Clouded Sulphur
- Spring Azure
- Fritillaries
- Skippers



Clouded Sulphur

Exploring Different Habitats



The Swale contains prairie and wetland and provides a corridor for wildlife around the city. There are lots of willows that grow here, and two sloughs.




Both Saskatoon and Chokecherries are native plants to our prairie, and the blue butterflies: Spring Azure, Silvery Blue, Greenish Blue, Arctic Blue and Melissa Blue all love their blossoms.



When you visit the Swale be aware that depending on the season (late spring, summer or fall) you will see different butterflies, and they will likely be found near their favourite nectar source.

Collecting Data: Eggs and Caterpillars



Place	Day	
Weather:		
		



Even though butterflies lay many eggs, most are eaten by predators. It is a dangerous life being a butterfly! Most butterflies are very choosy on the plants they will lay their eggs on. Monarchs are known for only laying eggs on milkweeds, the caterpillars eat the milkweed and become unpalatable to birds and predators.

The word
Lepidoptera is Greek
for *lepis* or scale,
and *ptera* or wing.

Note how many
caterpillars or
eggs you see.

Butterfly Friendly Yards



Butterfly friendly yards have a few parts:

- Nectar rich flowers
- A water source or puddle

Remember the meadowy, open spaces that you've seen butterflies in. Butterflies don't like tidy spaces, they want some wildness, places to hide on a rainy day, and sunny spots to drink nectar.



Butterfly Friendly Plants

Cosmos



Lilacs



Snapdragons



Coneflower



Daisies



Sunflower



A Moth Night Adventure

In the night when we are sleeping moths are busy pollinating flowers. Pick a mild, cloudy night and learn about moths in your neighbourhood by:

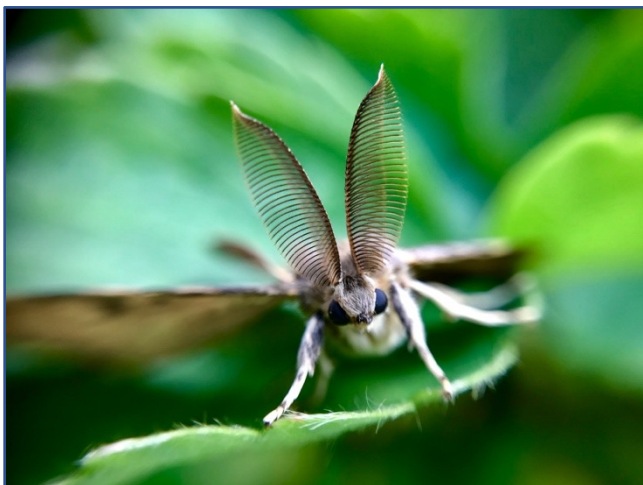
Attracting moths with sugar:

Slowly heat $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of molasses with 1 cup brown sugar, and enough water to just make a mixture. Simmer for 2 minutes and allow to cool before pouring into a jar.

Use a paintbrush to paint the sugar mixture onto tree trunks or fence posts at eye level just before dusk.

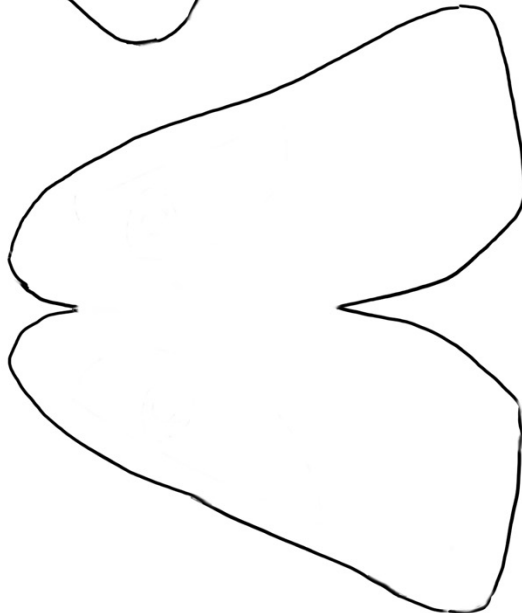
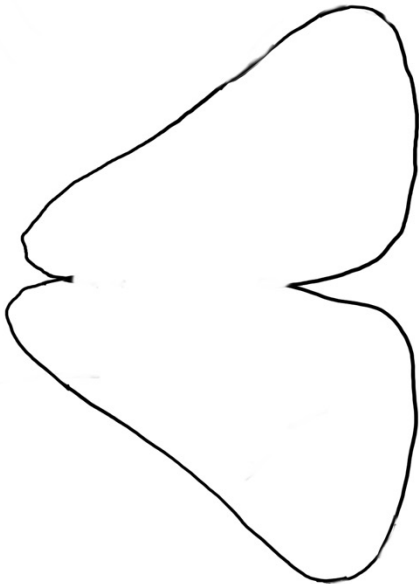
Attracting moths with light:

Leave an outdoor light on, and once dusk falls head outside to see what moths are attracted to the light.



Moth Craft

Print out the moth template, make your moth as colourful or camouflage as you like using markers or pencil crayons. Then cut the wings out, fold in half and attach a furry body and antennae using pipe cleaners or nature finds.



Test your Knowledge

True ✓ False X

Butterflies drink nectar with their proboscis.

Moths and Butterflies look exactly the same.

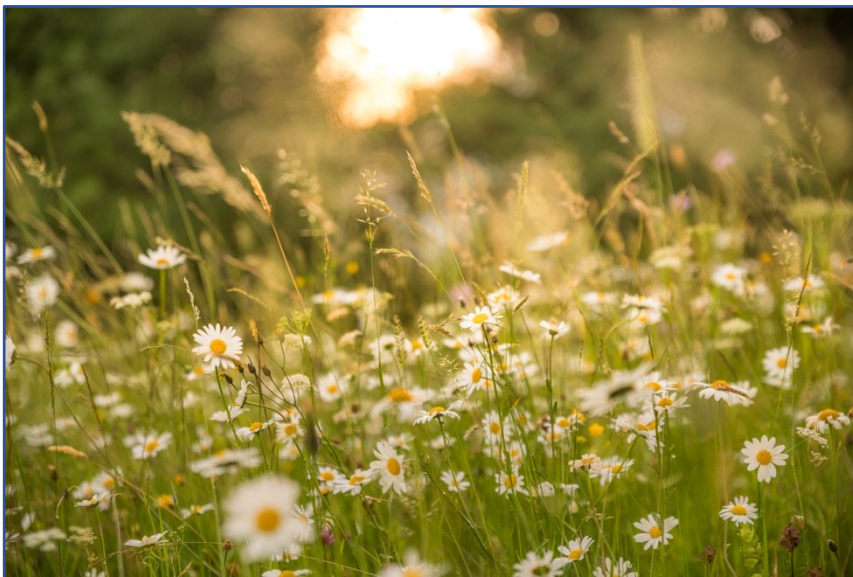
Butterfly have 8 wings.

Citizen Science is just for scientists.

Butterflies prefer different habitats depending on where they lay their eggs.

Butterflies taste with their feet.

Lepidoptera means scaly wing in Greek.



Collaborative Art Project



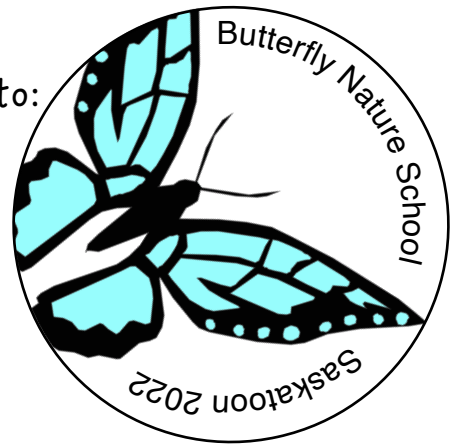
The wonderful thing about you dropping off your data sheets is the opportunity to make a collaborative art project. You are welcome to make one or more butterflies and add it to my front door. I will love every one of them and together we will create a collaborative art project.

An easy way to do this is with a baby wipe, a clothes pin and markers. If you don't have a baby wipe then a coffee filter will also work, but you may need to use water to 'swirl' the colours together, or watercolour paints. You can form a body with a clothes pin, pipecleaner or tape.



Thank you for downloading this guide and participating in our 2022 Nature School.

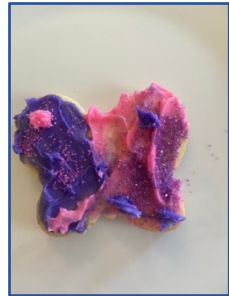
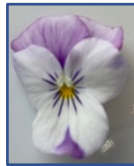
All data collection sheets can be returned to:
Carmen at Woodland Art Adventures
211 Pobran Lane
Saskatoon, SK S7S 1L4



Thanks for participating and see you next year!



Gallery of Butterfly Crafts



Woodland Art Adventures works to provide inspiring nature + art projects and helpful resources for families, home educators and classroom teachers.

We are based in Saskatoon and consider it an honour to learn and share the stories of the people and land of Treaty 6 Territory.



We'd love to see what you make, And would be even happier to bump into you out in nature making art. Follow us on Instagram.



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