

Monarch Butterfly Coffee Filter Craft & Outdoor Activity

This activity involves making a monarch butterfly with the items listed below, and once completed, you will take your butterfly outside for a fun adventure! To do this activity you will need:

- 2 coffee filters
- Orange and black colored markers (non-permanent work best)
- A spray bottle with water
- 1 clothespin
- 1 pipe cleaner or twist tie (black colored if possible)
- Wax paper

Step 1:

Place a piece of wax paper on a table; the wax paper should be big enough to put 2 coffee filters on it side by side; the wax paper helps to protect the table that you are using for your project from water and the colored markers

Step 2:

Use your orange and black markers to decorate your coffee filters similar to a monarch butterfly. The coffee filters will be the wings of your monarch

Step 3:

Once you are finished decorating your coffee filters, get your spray bottle and lightly mist the coffee filters so that they are damp. Be sure not to get them too wet, and then let them dry

Step 4:

While the coffee filters are drying, take your black marker and completely color your clothespin. This will be the “body” of your monarch

Step 5:

Once your coffee filters are completely dry, fold them back and forth like an accordion, and then pinch them both in the middle to hold them together. Clip the clothespin onto the center of the coffee filters where you were pinching them together. Then gently spread the filters to create the 4 wings of your monarch

Step 6:

Slightly open the clothespin and slip the pipe cleaner or twist tie into the top of the clothespin to create the antenna of your monarch. *Your monarch is now complete!*

Now that your monarch is ready, let's head outside and take your monarch on a marvelous migration adventure!

First, find the north side of your yard. From here, your monarch will begin its marvelous migration journey from the north to the south side of your yard. Imagine that it is fall, and the weather is getting colder, so your monarch needs to head to Mexico where the weather is much warmer. Your monarch will need to make stops along the way to fill up on nectar from flowers so that it can complete its long journey south. It only travels by day so it will also need to find a place to rest at night. When the sun comes up in the morning, your monarch will warm its wings in the sun, and then continue its journey south. Once your monarch arrives in Mexico, it will search for oyamel trees with the other monarchs to stay warm.

Now that you are on the south side of your yard, imagine that it is February or March, and your monarch will now begin its northward migration towards the Midwest. As you walk towards the north side of your yard holding your monarch, imagine that it is flying through the air in search of milkweed as it continues to head north. Your monarch will need to make stops along the way to drink nectar from flowers and to rest at night. Eventually your monarch will find milkweed, and it will then stop to lay its eggs on the milkweed. *Your monarch's journey is now complete!* So once the eggs that your monarch laid are transformed from eggs and eventually into beautiful monarch butterflies these monarchs will continue the journey to the Midwest, and it can take several generations of monarchs to make the entire trip.

What an amazing migration journey! We sure hope you had fun!