



Butterfly footprints



What to do...

Paint both feet with the same pattern. You could try using the colours of the rainbow - red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet – from top to bottom.

Print the pattern onto paper or card. Put the left foot on the right-hand side of the paper, and the right foot next to it on the left-hand side.

Paint in a body and antenna for your butterfly between the footprint wings once they have dried.

How it works...

Butterfly wings are usually symmetrical (although some asymmetrical butterflies do exist!), and footprints have a similar shape to butterfly wings. So by painting both feet with the same pattern you can create a butterfly footprint.

Visible light is the light that we see. It is made up of the colours in rainbows (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet). Combined, we see them as white light. The colour of any object depends on how it interacts with visible light. It absorbs the light of some colours, and reflects the light of others. The reflected light is the colour that we see.

Things to talk about...

(describe things to younger children, and discuss them with those that are old enough)

Where do butterflies come from? What do caterpillars do to become butterflies (the book 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' by Eric Carle is great for exploring this topic). The transformation from caterpillar to butterfly is called metamorphosis.

What time of year do you see butterflies? What else do we see at that time of year (flowers, for them to get food from!).

Are they all the same, or do they come in different shapes and sizes? What about colours and patterns?

