



Day 21 : Butterflies

Wings: They're Pretty Fly

If you've ever seen a butterfly, you've probably noticed their wings. Butterfly wings come in all shapes, patterns, and colors. Butterflies don't just like showing off their cool wings to fellow butterflies, they actually use them as a form of protection. There are different ways these wings can protect butterflies, let's investigate:

Camouflage

Some butterflies use their wings as a form of **camouflage**. Just like spies might dress in all black to hide in the shadows, butterflies use camouflage to blend in with plants and trees. Check out the picture to the right. That might look like a dead leaf, but it's actually an



Indian leaf butterfly! Butterflies like the one in the picture have wings that look like leaves or bark so they can easily hide from predators.

Mimicry

While some butterflies like to blend in, others prefer to stand out. Butterflies like the Owl Butterfly (left) have big circles on their wings. These circles look a lot like owl eyes. It is thought that butterflies like the Owl Butterfly **mimic** (mimic is just a fancy word for copy) those



eyespots to scare away potential predators. If a little bird chasing that butterfly saw those eyespots, they might get scared that it was actually an owl and leave the butterfly alone.

Tricksters

One of the most famous butterflies is the Monarch. Monarchs stand out with their bright orange wings. Monarch butterflies feed on a plant called **milkweed** which makes them poisonous to many predators. Their bright color and pattern of a Monarch's wings is a warning to predators that they are poisonous. Some butterflies, like the Viceroy, are not milkweed eaters and therefore aren't poisonous, but their wings look A LOT like Monarch wings. By mimicking the Monarch's wings, Viceroy butterflies trick predators into thinking they are poisonous.

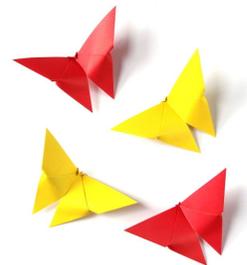


The Monarch does NOT have the black line crossing the veins.

The Viceroy has the black line crossing the veins.

Winging It

Now is your chance to make your own butterfly! All you need is a square piece of paper. [Click here](#) to watch this quick video showing you how to make an origami butterfly! Decorate the wings to look like your favorite butterfly.



Share your Findings or Creations with us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)

Tomorrow's Theme: Earth Day Celebration
Time to explore! Miss Mo Mariposa