

# Coffee Filter Butterflies

Make a beautiful butterfly using markers and water on a coffee filter.

In addition to the supplies in this kit, you'll need: Water, Spoon (optional)

## Instructions:

*Tip: Protect your table with a piece of wax paper or work on a plate, tray or baking sheet.*

- Draw a simple design using markers on two coffee filters. Leave some white spaces! Using a spoon, drip small amounts of water onto your coffee filters so they become slightly damp. (Or, you can get your hands wet and flick water onto the coffee filters.)
- Let your coffee filters dry.
- Gather one coffee filter at the center to form two "wings." Repeat this with the second coffee filter.
- Wrap a chenille stem around the center of both coffee filters and twist, leaving two long antennae.
- Bend or curl the ends of the antennae to complete your butterfly!

## Talk about it:

What did you notice when you added the water?

The water and ink from the markers spread around the coffee filter through *capillary action*.

- Water molecules like to stick together. This is called *cohesion*.
- They also like to stick to other things, like the tiny fibers in a coffee filter. This is called *adhesion*.
- When there is more *adhesion* than *cohesion*, water moves up or through a surface.
- This is *capillary action*. This is the same process that allows water to move from the roots of plants to the leaves, or up a straw when you take a sip.
- Did your colors mix? Try adding different amounts of water and see what happens.



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