

Insect Symmetry – Grades 3-5

Explore symmetry in nature. Investigate the insect world, then create colorful butterflies, dragonflies, damselflies, and other symmetrical creatures.

Directions:

Students should use library and electronic resources to investigate the insect world. Pay special attention to designs on wings. Identify the body parts of insects (head, thorax, abdomen, legs, wings, antennae). Compare and contrast insect groups (such as butterflies, beetles, dragonflies, and ants).

Invite students to design their own symmetrical insects. Fold paper in half. Use a black Crayola® Washable Marker to draw half of the insect. Be sure the center of the insect body meets the fold. Add detailed wing and body designs in your outline.

Turn over the folded paper. Students trace the image seen through the paper. Inform them that they may need to hold the folded paper against a sunny window or a light table so the image on the other half is easy to see.

Open the paper. Students add color to the outlined design with Crayola Crayons. As each area is colored, fill in the same area in the same color on the other half to make the insect symmetrical. Color all areas with crayon, including the background. Rub entire drawing with a paper towel to give it a glossy sheen.

Allow time for students to present their symmetrical insects to small groups of classmates. Ask students to share the most interesting facts learned during research.



Supplies Needed:

Construction Paper

Crayons

Paper Towels

Washable Markers