UAMN Virtual Junior Curators: Wings



Butterfly Wing Collage

Get inspired by up-close views of butterfly wings, and create a collage!

Materials Needed:

Cardstock, round lid to trace a circle, pencil, tissue paper, construction paper, scissors, glueptional: Hole punch, other craft materials (stickers, sequins, yarn, etc)

Instructions:

Step 1:



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Butterfly Colors

There are about 80 species of butterflies in Alaska. They come in many different colors and patterns, from the black-and-yellow Mourning Cloak to the blue shades of the Alaskan Blue and the tan-and-brown Tanana Arctic.

There are many reasons for butterflies to have specific colors and patterns:

Camouflage Colors help butterflies blend into their environment and avoid predator Alaska butterflies live in many different habitats, including boreal forests, tundra, bogs, fields, and meadows. Their colors and patterns help them match the colors of Common Branded Skippelilesperia their surroundings.

comma borealis Image: Ken Philip.

Warmth: Butterflies need to absorb sunlight to stay warm. Darker colors absorb more sunlight, so some Arctic species have dark wing patterns.

Left: Tiger SwallowtaiPapilio canadensisbasking in the surUAMN photo.

Warning and Mimicry: Although there are no poisonous butterflies in Alaska, in other regions some species are brightly colored to warn predators that they are poisonous. Other non-poisonous butterflies have patterns that imitate poisonous species to fool predators.

Discover more about Alaska butterflies and see photos of the Kenelm Philip Collectionkenphilipcollection.alaska.edu

Did You Know?



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Alaska Butterflies Images

The butterflies pictured below are just a few of around 80 butterfly species that live in Alaska. Images are not to scale.

Canadian Tiger Swallowtail
Papilio canadensis

Giant Sulphur Colias gigantea

Lively Clouded Sulphur Colias philodice vitabunda



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