



ART BRIDGES: Lesson Plans for Enrichment, Growth and Healing

Butterflies Inspired by Eric Carle

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Cheryl Trowbridge
www.teachkidsart.net**



A collage with personality — inspired by the beloved Eric Carle!

Eric Carle’s colorful collages are among the first works of art that many young children are exposed to—who doesn’t love his charming illustrations?? It’s easy to make your own collage butterflies inspired by Eric Carle, just follow these simple instructions. To learn more about Eric Carle, visit <http://www.eric-carle.com/home.html> .

Objectives:

The participants will:

1. Use their knowledge of color and the color wheel to create the art
2. Use the art element of symmetry in creating their designs
3. Use nature as the inspiration for their artwork

Audience:

This lesson was designed for children’s art but could easily be adapted for adults.

Supplies/Materials:

- 9 x 12 white construction paper, at least 3 sheets per student
- 12 x 12 white construction paper, 1 sheet per student
- tempera paint — red, yellow, and turquoise
- paper plates
- foam brushes, 1 1/2” wide
- water and water containers
- old (used up!) gift cards, cut in half, with notches added to one edge
- scissors
- “YES! Paste” or Avery permanent glue sticks

Class Instruction:

1. Write your name on the backs of 3 pieces of paper (or however many you want to paint).
2. Use primary colors (red, yellow and turquoise) to mix large pools of bright colors on paper plates. (Mixed colors are always more interesting than colors straight out of the bottle!)
3. Paint each of your papers with a different color.



4. Before the paint has a chance to dry, drag a notched card across it a few times to create texture.
5. Set papers aside to dry (about 1 1/2 hours should do it).
6. When papers are fully dry, fold one in half and cut on the fold to create the upper wings, fold another in half and cut on the fold to create the lower wings, and fold the last one in half to create the body of your butterfly. Use scraps of other colors (from someone sitting near you) to make the antennae and any spots for the wings.
7. Place your butterfly "parts" onto the 12x12 white paper. Make sure your butterfly is symmetrical!
8. Glue down the largest shapes (wings) first, then the body on top of the wings, and finally the antennae and any spots. (Make sure you apply your glue to the smaller paper and then stick the smaller paper to the larger paper.)

(Hint: Save even the tiniest scraps! This paper is too wonderful to throw any away! You will find uses for it, I promise!)



Note: All of these gorgeous butterflies were made using just three colors of “Sargent” tempera paint—red, yellow and turquoise. The brand does make a big difference!

To see this lesson in its entirety, visit <http://www.teachkidsart.net/butterflies-inspired-by-eric-carle/> .

*Special thanks to **Cheryl Trowbridge** for sharing a wealth of information and resources and ideas on her excellent website www.teachkidsart.net ! Cheryl has her art education credentials and has been teaching art to kids for over 20 years. She is inspired by watching children of all ages discover their ability to be creative. Her passion is to make successful art lessons accessible to help share the joy of art with all the kids in our lives. Visit Cheryl’s on-line store <https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Store/Teach-Kids-Art> to purchase a variety of resources for helping kids create art.*

If you have used this activity, we’d love to hear from you! Please send questions or comments through our website www.hildegardcenter.org .

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