

The Environmental Learning Center

BUTTERFLY FEEDER

Did you know that butterflies can sense vibrations with their wings, smell with their antennas and taste with their feet? Take a closer look at how these amazing creatures use their senses as they sip from your homemade butterfly feeder.



Materials Needed:

- Mason jar with hole in lid (provided)
- 5 pieces of string 4 long, 1 short (provided)
- Sponge (provided)
- Foam shapes to create flowers (provided)
- Sugar & water

Instructions:

- 1. First make some butterfly food! Ask an adult to help you with this part! Add nine parts water and one part sugar to a pot and bring to a boil until sugar is dissolved.

 Let it cool down while you prepare the feeder.
- 2. Take the sponge and pull it through the hole in the lid of the mason jar until it sticks out of the top by 1/2 an inch. Set aside.
- 3. Lay out the small piece of string, and tie the 4 longer pieces to it using a **double knot**. Make sure they are tight!
- 4. Now tie the small piece of string around the neck of the jar, again using a strong, **tight knot**.
- 5. Gather the 4 long pieces of string, and tie them all together with another **strong knot**.
- 6. Now you can add the cooled sugar water to the jar, and screw the lid on **tightly** so that it doesn't leak.
- 7. Use the colorful foam shapes to create flowers and attach them to your butterfly feeder. The extra color will help you attract more butterflies to your neighborhood.
- 8. Find a place outside to hang your butterfly feeder and observe who stops by to take a taste.

VOCABULARY

- olfactory: relating to a sense of smell
- pollinator: anything that helps to carry pollen from one flower to another so it can reproduce









Note: Butterflies are important pollinators and should not be captured without a butterfly net.
Catching them with your hands can tear their delicate wings and affect a butterfly's ability to fly.