Blob Print Butterfly

By Carolyn Martin

*Grade Level 1-4 (examples and instructions from a first grade class) This project also should follow a lesson about primary colors.*

Objective:

* Student will demonstrate that mixing two primary colors creates a third color.
* Student will define symmetry as two sides that are the same.
* Student will use paint as a medium.

Supplies:

* 9 x 12” White construction paper or cardstock—1 per butterfly
* Black construction paper—1 ½ x 9” piece per butterfly
* Half of a pipe cleaner per butterfly
* Liquid Tempera paints: yellow and red
* Popsicle stick or paint brush for blobbing on paint, 2 per student. (*I prefer a popsicle stick because students will not be “painting” but rather daubing on paint. When they have a paint brush they are more likely to want to “paint” with it.)*
* Optional: wiggly eyes—2 per butterfly

Teacher prep:

* Before class fold in half (a hamburger fold) one 9x12” white construction paper sheet per child.
* Open the sheet. With a pencil lightly draw a large B on one side. The straight edge of the B should follow the fold.
* Make paint stations by pouring a small amount of red paint into a small disposable container such as a plastic cup. Put a small amount of yellow paint into a second container. Give each student two popsicle sticks—one for each color.

Lesson:

1. Review primary colors. Have students predict what will happen if they mix two primary colors. We will be using red and yellow today.
2. Discuss symmetry. Use a few real-life examples: your face, an apple, a daisy, etc. Symmetry will help us make our butterfly look the same on both sides.
3. Demonstrate how to blob paint only onto the B part of the paper. Intermingle yellow and red blobs. These should be fairly liberal blobs.
4. When the B is liberally covered with paint blobs fold the two parts together. Carefully use a finger on the outside of the sheet to swirl, mix and shape the butterfly wings. \*This part often needs some teacher supervision or intervention.
5. Carefully pull the two halves open. You should have a lovely symmetrical butterfly with yellow, red, and orange wings.
6. Review what happens when you mix red and yellow. Review symmetry.
7. On the black construction paper, draw three body segments. Cut out and glue onto the dry butterfly.
8. Bend a 6” pipe cleaner into an antennae shape and staple onto the head.
9. Optional: Add wiggly eyes to the head.

*You can make different colors of butterflies by mixing two of the other primary color groups also.*