

Dazzling Butterfly Stained Glass



by Ms. Hines' grade 3 class, Jack Hulland School - 1304 Fir St. Whitehorse, YT



This is a fun, and fairly easy project which not only recycles pop bottles but also produces beautiful butterfly creations as well. I learned about it through Maureen Caron, one of my parent volunteers. My class loved creating their butterflies and are very excited about sharing this project with other students.

It is recommended that adult assistance be provided for younger children. The finished butterflies can be made into stained glass window decorations, fridge magnets, or even hairclips. You may have to spend a little money for start-up materials but your supplies will last a long time.

Materials:

- large (750 ml) plastic pop bottles, labels removed
- glass paint — variety of colours
- fabric paint — variety of colours (glitter or sparkle paint produces the best results)
- cork board
- butterfly patterns (children may want to create their own) Make sure the pattern is outlined with heavy black lines. This makes it easier to trace over.
- push pins, scissors, q-tips
- magnet pieces or fish line (if you plan to hang the finished butterfly)

Procedure:

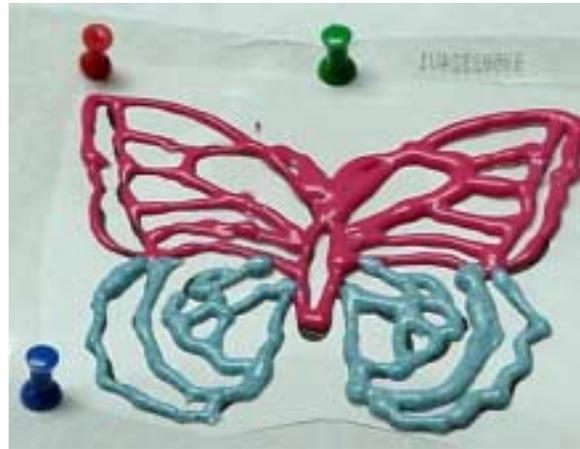
1. Cut away the top and bottom parts of the plastic pop bottle. (the pieces left over can still be recycled).



2. Choose a butterfly pattern to create your butterfly from. Place the pattern face up on the cork board. Cover the pattern with a piece of plastic and tack down on the cork board. You may have to use quite a few pins as the plastic has a tendency to curl.



3. Using fabric paint, outline the butterfly pattern you have chosen.



4. Once the pattern has been outlined, fill in the spaces with glass paint. Don't wait until the fabric paint has dried before applying fabric paint. You get better results if you apply the glass paint immediately.



5. After 24 hours the pattern can be carefully removed from the cork board and pinned onto a flat surface, such as a wall in the classroom. Although the butterfly looks dry at this point it isn't. Be careful not to touch the butterfly; the paint is still a little tacky and will show fingerprints and smears.



6. After 48 hours your butterfly is ready to cut out. Small, sharp scissors work best. Carefully cut around the butterfly, as close to the fabric paint outline as possible. When you are cutting smaller sections, such as between the head and the wing, it is sometimes hard to reach far enough in with your scissors. You can twist the plastic free instead.



7. Once your butterfly is cut out, bend it toward the middle. This gives it a more 3-dimensional look.



Helpful Hints:

- If you make a mistake when outlining, use a q-tip to correct it. Make sure that you do this right away, before the paint starts to harden.



- The glass paint will often bubble when applied. Use the sharp end of the push pin to break the bubbles. Bubbles left unpopped will harden that way.



Finished!



Butterflies on the wall



Butterflies on the window