



FEEDING OUR FLUTTERY FRIENDS

Create a small-scale garden to attract butterflies to the Scout meeting place

Once upon a time, the Small Tortoiseshell butterfly was the most commonly-seen species in our gardens but, sadly, they have dropped in numbers by as much as 77% in the past decade. Reasons for their decline include the weather, the wet springs and summers we've been having in the UK, plus there's not enough of their natural habitat around for them to thrive in. If you'd like to attract butterflies to your meeting place but there isn't a garden area outside then, don't worry, you can create a little garden for them on a patio or even a windowsill.



Your little garden could help the Small Tortoiseshell butterfly thrive once again!



Activity

MAKE A SMALL-SCALE BUTTERFLY GARDEN

Suitable for all

1 Ask your group how they might attract butterflies to your meeting place. They'll need to think about food, space, heat and shelter. For ideas visit butterfly-conservation.org.

2 Butterflies love warmth so go outside and ask your group to identify the sunniest spot. They also



Bluebell



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like to fly about so it's even better if your sunny spot is near an open space.

3 Butterflies collect their food – nectar – from flowers so talk about how you can grow one or more of these kinds of plants: lavender, bluebells, marigolds and garden mint, for example. You can plant them in large pots or in a window box if you don't have a bit of garden. The plants will need watering regularly to keep up the supply of nectar. Blackberry bushes are another favourite with butterflies. And you might want to start a small compost heap, leaving rotting fruit on the top for the insects to feast on.

4 Butterflies love mixed grasses, clover and wild flowers such as buttercups, so if possible leave some of the grass to grow tall in the outside area. Shrubs with large leaves are also great, as they provide shelter. Butterflies also like to drink from shallow water so ask your section how they might create watering holes for butterflies. Ask your section to find out which species frequent your area. For example, Norfolk is home to the Swallowtail, while the White Admiral prefers the warmer south and the Painted Lady lives across the UK.

BADGE



Macmillan Children's Books partners the Beaver My Outdoors Challenge Award

PARTNER



OUTCOMES

This activity will encourage your section to go outdoors and think about creating the best environment in which butterflies can thrive.

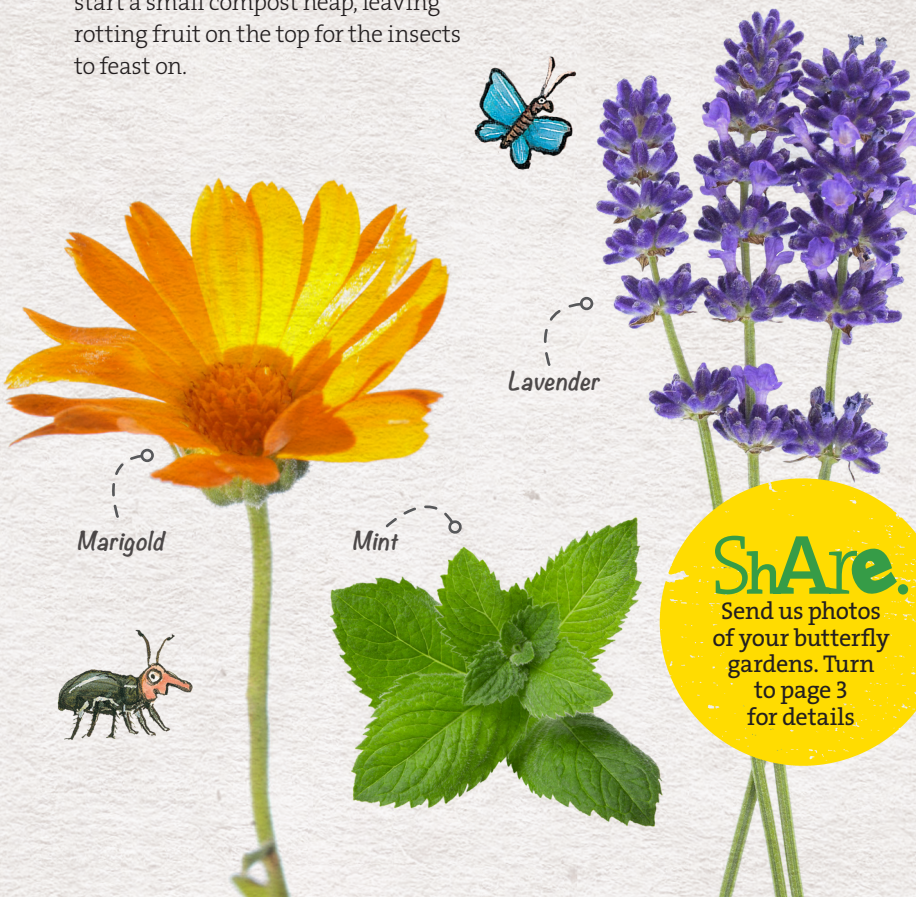
TAKING IT FURTHER

Ask your section to think about the other garden animals and insects that are under threat and the habitats they could create for them.

MORE INFORMATION

Celebrating the Gruffalo Explorers books, fun fact-filled nature-spotter guides, the Gruffalo is partnering the Beaver My Outdoor Challenge Award, bringing clever ideas and new activities to this challenge. To find out more, visit scouts.org.uk/gruffaloexplorers.

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Marigold

Mint

Lavender

ShAre.

Send us photos of your butterfly gardens. Turn to page 3 for details