

# WORKSHOP EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Built by The Home Depot Kids Workshops

## March 2024: Butterfly House

Ages 5–12

### CONNECT.

Where's your favorite spot to hang out? Do you like being at home with your family? Do you enjoy spending time in the school cafeteria with your friends? Or maybe you have a favorite spot where you join others that is outside of your school or home—like a theater, a park, or even a community center.

### INVESTIGATE.

Do butterflies have a favorite spot to hang out, too? Let's find out!

#### You'll need:

- Your Butterfly House
  - Napkin
  - Notebook
  - Pencil
  - Butterfly Food (sliced overripe fruit like oranges, berries, melons, pears, plums, pineapple pieces, or mashed-up bananas)
- First, brainstorm outdoor locations around your home where you could safely place your Butterfly House. Consider flower beds, decks, front porches, tree branches, and more! Try to come up with at least two different places. (If it's hard to find a good spot, team up with friends or family members who have more outdoor space around their home. You could also try asking your teacher or school!)
  - To figure out where butterflies prefer to gather, track how many you see in each of these locations! Begin by sitting still and observing each area for about five minutes, a couple of times during the day. If you have access to a phone or camera, you can also take pictures of the areas.
  - Now, prepare for your first test!
    - Copy a version of the observation chart into your notebook.
    - Select your first location and write it in the first column of your chart.
    - Decide the length of time to test each location. Anywhere from a few days to two weeks should work well!

- Place your Butterfly House carefully in its first testing location. Add a slice of ripe fruit on a napkin inside by rotating the roof open. If needed, use a screwdriver to loosen the screw used to attach the roof to the back wall. Rotate the roof closed once the fruit is inside.
- Try to check on your Butterfly House at least two times every day. It may take a couple of days for butterflies to find the house, so don't be discouraged if it's not used right away. Observe the weather conditions, as well as other insects and animals in the area—these things might impact the presence of butterflies.
- Remove old fruit and replace it with ripe fruit every couple of days. When the length of time you selected has passed, repeat the investigation in the other location(s). Be sure to continue tracking your results in your observation chart!



### INNOVATE.

Now, review your results! Which location do butterflies seem to enjoy the most? Why do you think this may be the case? Think about the conditions in and around this location that may make it a prime spot for butterflies to hang out.

Then, consider: Based on your analysis, is there anything you could do to make the butterflies' hang-out even better? For instance, if they seemed to like being in the shade, is there an even more protected location you could test? Or, if full sunshine seemed to fare better, is there a spot that gets even more hours of sun each day? Try testing small changes to see if they make a difference.

Once you're confident that you've found a location that butterflies like best, place your Butterfly House safely in its new home!

As seasons change, consider repeating the investigation. See if you get the same results another time of the year.

Share a picture of your Butterfly House using #KidsWorkshopExplore

Location	Date	Time	Weather Conditions	Number of Butterflies	Number of Other Insects and Animals

Did you build a roof on your Butterfly House? A roof is the top protective layer of a structure, and a **Roofer** specializes in planning, designing, building, and repairing roofs.

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