



The Butterfly Project Lesson Plan for Grades K-2

Goal: Children will appreciate differences in people.

Objectives: The children should be able to:

1. make comparisons between butterflies,
2. make comparisons between people,
3. make connections between people and butterflies,
4. explain how being different is unique, special, and enriches all of our lives,
5. realize that even children can make a difference when someone is treated unfairly.

Materials:

- [Butterfly painting kit](#)
- [Butterfly Project PowerPoint](#) for grades K-2
- The Araboolies of Liberty Street by Sam Swope

Background Music: “Different” by Andrew C. Germain

Procedure:

1. Use PowerPoint to show children pictures of different colors and sizes of butterflies (slides 1 & 2).
2. Ask children to make comparisons—similarities and differences--between the butterflies:
 - a. i.e. differences: shape (large or small), color, live in different places; similarities: all have colors, are insects :antennae, three body parts, six legs, two sets of wings, they fly, etc.
3. Emphasize that although the butterflies are different from each other in someways (unique), they are all beautiful. It is important to state that butterflies are a symbol of freedom because they can fly wherever they want to go.
4. Give children the ceramic butterflies from the kit to paint. Encourage them to make them colorful. When they are finished painting, point out the beauty and uniqueness of each one. Be sure to explain to the children that their butterflies (whether they will remain at their own school or be sent to another)will be a reminder to all who view them of the beauty in differences and the importance of freedom.
5. Use PowerPoint presentation to show children a picture of multi-ethnic children (slide 3).
6. Ask how are they different (sizes, color of skin and hair, shape of eyes, where they live, religions, languages spoken, food eaten, size of family, number of siblings, pets, etc.) and how are they all the same (all G-d’s children who NEED to feel loved, cared for, and safe).
7. Emphasize that although the children are different from each other in some ways (unique), they all have the same needs and are beautiful.



8. Read the book, *The Araboolies of Liberty Street* by Sam Swope. Be sure to define liberty before reading the story.

Suggested questions for discussion after reading the book:

1. Was Liberty Street a good name for this street at the beginning of the book? How about at the end of the book? Why?
2. Why do you think General Pinch and his wife wanted all the houses on Liberty street to be white?
3. Why is General Pinch a good name for him?
4. Who were the Araboolies? Where were they from and what were they like?
5. Did the General and his wife like the Araboolies? Why or why not?
6. Why did the General declare war on Liberty Street?
7. What did Joy and the children of Liberty Street do to save their homes from war?
8. What happened to General Pinch, his wife, and his house?
9. What is the message or lesson you learned from listening to this story?(It's good to be different, everyone is entitled to freedom, one person can make a difference by standing up for what is right!)

Play the CD "Different" and discuss the words of the song.

Suggestions for journal writing:

- How is being different being special?
- What should you do if you see someone being treated unfairly? For example, suppose a group of children are playing a game on the playground and another child is told he cannot play, just because the color of his skin is different from the other children. What could you do?
- Butterflies are free to fly wherever they want to go. Do you think people should have the same freedom? Why or why not?

Across the Curriculum Suggestions:

Math: learn the term symmetrical. Look for patterns in nature.

Science: Learn about the life cycle of a butterfly, the body parts of an insect.



Geography: Look up places on the map where different species of butterflies live and plot them on a world map. Have the children find out the countries their ancestors came from and plot them on a map of the world.

Additional Book Suggestions:

- The Sneetches by Dr. Suess
- Amazing Grace by Mary Hoffman
- Be Good to Eddie Lee by Virginia Fleming
- Oliver Button is a Sissy by Tomie de Paola
- Teammates by Peter Golenbock
- Why Am I Different? by Norma Simon

Web Links:

- Learning to be Friends—K-2 lesson plans for K-2 from the [New Jersey Holocaust Commission](#)
- [Simon Wiesenthal Center](#)
- [U.S. Holocaust Museum](#)
- <http://www.teachingtolerance.org>(free materials for educators)