

How to Make Coffee Filter Butterflies

This is one of those crafts that is soooo perfect for summer. It's easy, and a minimal mess. It's even a bit of a science experiment when you wet the coffee filter and watch the colours blend. Yes, my friends, this craft has it all!

Here's what you'll need:

- 2 coffee filters
- Washable markers (we used Mr. Sketch, but Crayola will work too)
- Water
- An eye dropper or small measuring spoon
- 1 pipe cleaner (12" long)



You will need TWO coffee filters for this craft. Place one inside the other so they fit together well. We used the coffee filters meant for small 4 to 6 cup coffee makers.

I recommend placing the coffee filters on a cookie sheet to keep the mess contained.



Flatten out the coffee filters a little. They don't have to be perfectly flat, just flat enough that you can colour on them.



Colour your creative designs onto the coffee filters. You'll be colouring on 2 layers, and some of the marker will leak through to the bottom coffee filter.



Then take an eye dropper or small measuring spoon and drip water onto the marker until the coffee filter is completely wet. Once the coffee filter is completely wet, stop adding water. If you add a big pool of water the colours will mix together too much, plus it will take forever to dry.

It was a sunny 91F (33C) day outside, so I placed my baking sheets outside in the sun to dry – they were completely dry in half an hour! If you're drying them indoors, it will take several hours, or even overnight, depending on how much water you added.



Once they are dry and you pull apart the two coffee filters, you'll end up with two very similar looking layers.



Fold each one back and forth, accordion style, in about 1/2" folds. (Just make sure the coffee filters are completely dry first or you'll end up with messy fingers!)



Keep folding until the end, so you have two strips that look like this:



Put the two folded strips on top of each other.



Twist a pipe cleaner around the middle so that the two ends point upwards in a big letter "V". Trim the ends to make them even if you need to.

Next, pinch the end of each pipe cleaner and curl it outwards to make a small spiral.



Finally, pull apart the folds in the coffee filter to open them up and shape your butterfly.

My little tip:

The less white space you leave on the coffee filters, the brighter your butterflies will be. I recommend colouring more of the coffee filter with marker than what I showed in the tutorial photo above.

Just make sure you leave at least a little bit of white space between the colours (about 1/4"). My 6 year old daughter covered her entire coffee filter with dark marker with zero white space and made a butterfly that was almost all navy and black... still pretty, but not quite what we were going for!



My second batch of butterflies where I covered way more of the coffee filter with marker ended up looking so pretty!



I wish I had remembered to take photos of the coffee filters before I added water! Basically the entire coffee filter was coloured in with markers with just enough white space between the colours for the markers to bleed.



These coffee filter butterflies are so easy to make and they look so beautiful! This is such a great summer craft idea for kids and such a fun low mess activity!





Materials

- Coffee filter
- Washable Markers
- Spray bottle with water
- Clothes Pin
- Green Pom Poms
- Googly Eyes
- Glue
- Toilet Paper Roll



Caterpillars to Butterflies Craft

Start by letting your little one color with markers on the coffee filter.

Once they are done coloring you are going to spray the coffee filter with water. We took ours outside so it was easier clean up then in the house.



Spraying water on the coffee filter will make the colors blend together. Leave it to dry.

Now start the caterpillar. Have your little one glue the green pom poms onto the clothes pin. Then put two googly eyes on the end pom pom closest to the clothespin opening.



Once Your caterpillar and coffee filter are dry you are going to place to coffee filter into the clothespin clip. Fold the wings around the caterpillar and put it into the toilet paper roll.