



ImagineTM Your Story



Program Guide
Free activities for all ages
Presented by [The Children of Indiana Nature Park](#)
Summer 2020

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Imagine You Are a Butterfly

(25 - 30 minutes)



Supplies:

- Monarch color cutout (on page four)
- Crayons, markers, or colored pencils
- Sequins, glitter, pipe cleaners, etc. (optional)
- Scissors
- Jumbo craft sticks
- Glue

Instructions:

Create a comfortable space for discussion on the importance of pollinators, butterflies specifically, and their habitat. If outdoor space is an option, consider doing this activity outside.

Pollinators are animals that move pollen from one part of a flower to another. This process helps the flowers reproduce and grow, often by producing a fruit. The more flowers there are, the more fruits are produced, providing food for animals, including us! We rely on pollinators for our fruits and vegetables, if we didn't have pollinators, we wouldn't have some of our favorite foods! Pollinators come in all shapes and sizes. Some pollinators are birds, some are turtles, some are bees, and some are moths or butterflies!

Have the group color, decorate, cutout, and glue monarch butterflies to their craft sticks during this discussion, or after, depending on age/group.

There are 95 different types (species) of butterflies in Indiana, and approximately 20,000 different types (species) in the world! Butterflies work really hard to pollinate plants, so it is especially important that we help them to have a safe home.

Butterflies rely on specific plants to survive, like the monarch butterfly and its host plant, milkweed. The monarch butterfly only lays its eggs on the milkweed plant, a plant that is native to Indiana. When the eggs hatch, the monarch caterpillar lives on the milkweed and eats the leaves to grow big and strong. The monarch caterpillar will only eat the leaves of the milkweed, so it is very important that we leave the milkweed and its caterpillars be.

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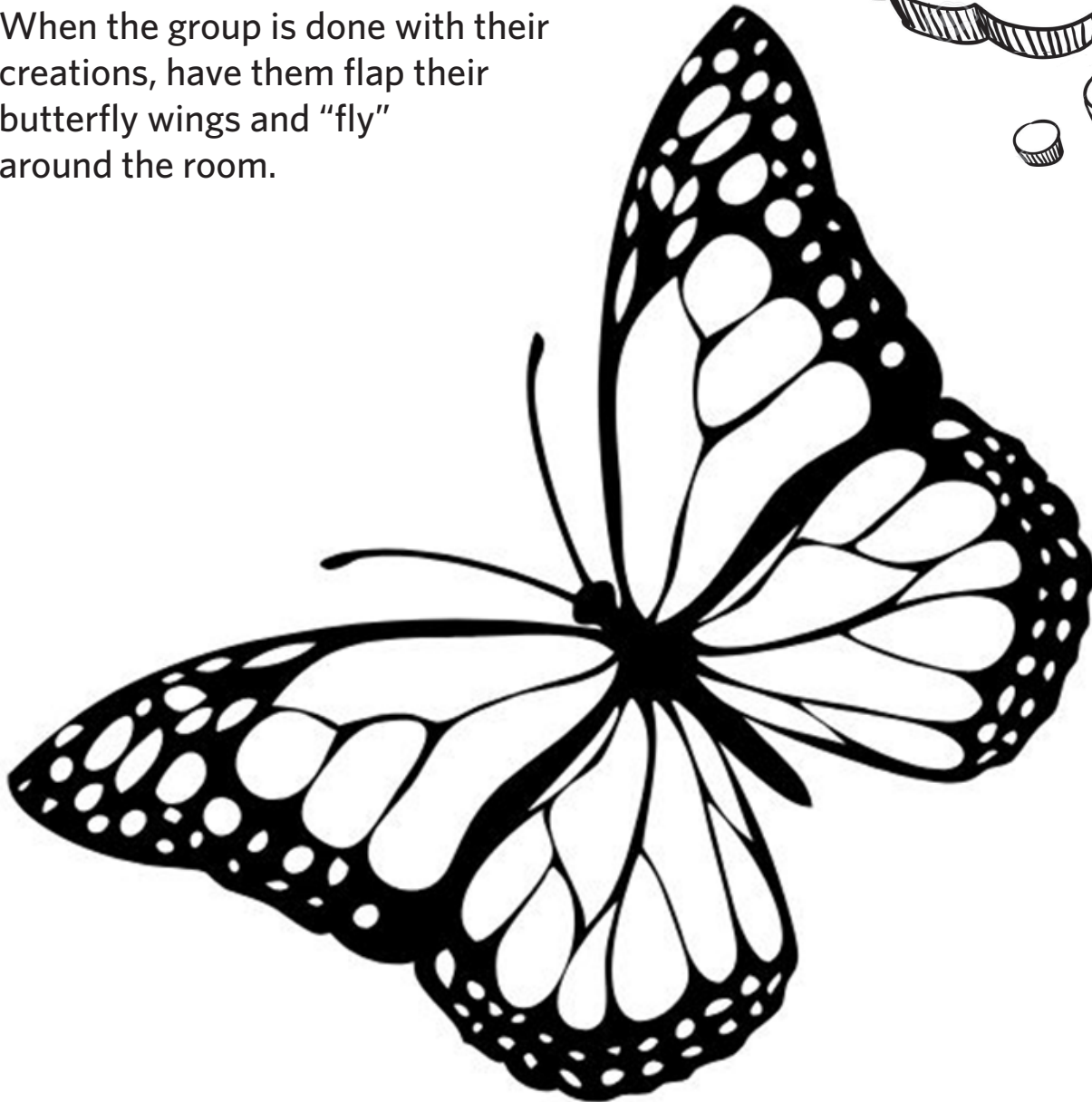


Imagine You Are a Butterfly

(25 - 30 minutes)



When the group is done with their creations, have them flap their butterfly wings and "fly" around the room.



Many native plants provide habitat for other species of moths and butterflies. Learn more by visiting the [Children of Indiana Nature Park website](#).

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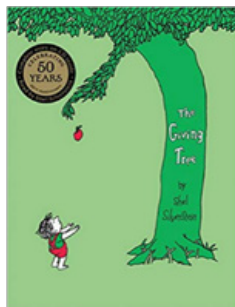
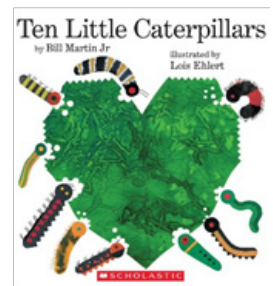
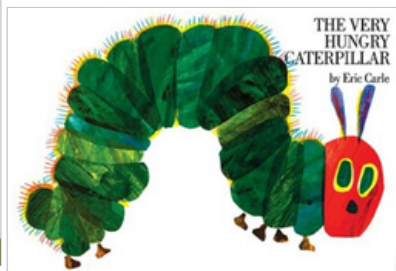
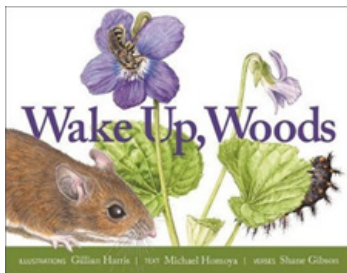


StoryWalk® Project: Reading in the Outdoors (30 - 90 minutes)



“StoryWalk® is an innovative and delightful way for children — and adults! — to enjoy reading and the outdoors at the same time. Laminated pages from a children’s book are attached to wooden stakes, which are installed along an outdoor path. As you stroll down the trail, you’re directed to the next page in the story.” - Kellogg Hubbard Library

Invite kids to **Imagine Their Story** while in nature or as one of nature’s creatures. These book options encourage nature exploration:



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StoryWalk® Project: Reading in the Outdoors (30 - 90 minutes)



Wake up, Woods - In the spring, our forest comes to life as new plants emerge from the forest floor and attract the native animals that depend on those plants.

The Very Hungry Caterpillar - Caterpillars increase their body mass as much as 1,000 times or more before turning into moths or butterflies. This fact can be fun to demonstrate using the analogy of a human baby increasing its weight by a factor of 1,000 by the time it is an adult.

Waiting for Wings - Use the butterfly cutout and craft as a creative prelude to this story.

Ten Little Caterpillars - Wriggle like a caterpillar and practice counting with this book.

The Giving Tree - Encourage readers to think of all the ways a tree can help them. Tie in the [Nature IN-Deed](#) and what it means to take care of the planet.

Outside your Window: A First Book of Nature - Encourage readers to use all five senses when exploring the outdoors.

Ladybug Girl - Encourage the group to think of themselves as “nature heroes” and create capes to wear for the walk.

**The StoryWalk® Project was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, Vermont and developed in collaboration with the Kellogg Hubbard Library. StoryWalk® is a registered service mark owned by Ms. Ferguson. Visit the [StoryWalk® Project website](#) for more information.*

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Wild Animal Poetry

(30 - 45 minutes)



Why I Love This Wild Animal: Poetry prompt by Shari Wagner, Indiana Poet Laureate (2016-2017)

Have the group write a poem about a wild animal that fascinates each of them. Have them describe this animal by using words that paint a picture.

Do you have a memory of watching or meeting this animal?

Their poem might describe that memory. Or they can write a poem that simply describes this animal in a way that shows why they admire it. The group is free to write about any wild creature that intrigues them, but preference is that they write about an animal that lives in Indiana.

The poem should be no longer than 20 lines. It can be written in free verse, which means that it doesn't need to rhyme. See some *Why I Love This Wild Animal* poetry examples on the [Children of Indiana Nature Park website](#).

Suggestions:

- Use specific details that paint a picture
- Include at least one or two imaginative comparisons (similes or metaphors)
- Search for strong verbs (action words)
- Repeat sounds (assonance and alliteration) to create music in your poem
- Repeat phrases to create rhythm
- Most importantly: Surprise yourself and your readers!

Share your poem on Facebook by tagging @IndianaPoetLaureateShariWagner and @ChildrenofIndianaNaturePark

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Nature Scavenger Hunt: Words and Stories (30 minutes)



Take a stroll through a nearby green space – split the group into smaller groups (or you can do it as one big group) and have them explore and report back with their findings/creations. Cut out and use one or more of the example scavenger hunt prompts to spark ideas for your story or word.



Music Makers:

Stop walking and be still. Listen to the world around you. How many sounds can you hear? Which ones are human-made and which ones are from nature? Can you name the things making these nature sounds? If not, can you guess what they might be?

Word Magic:

Have each person think of a five-letter word. Now, look for letters that nature has made! If your word is EARTH, perhaps you can find a tree branch in the shape of an "E". Who can spell their word first?

Story Time:

Find a tiny habitat. Maybe it's a tree stump with insects underneath it. Maybe it's worm tunnels under a log. Make up a story about these critters. What do you think their world is like? If they spoke our language, what would they be saying?

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Be a Little Landowner: How Will You Care for the Land? (30 minutes)



The Children of Indiana Nature Park was created by The Nature Conservancy, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Cope Environmental Center, and the Indiana Department of Education. We're taking kids to an amazing new place: outside!
www.ilovemyland.org

Create a comfortable place for discussion on being a landowner and caretaker of the natural world.

For years and years, people have relied upon the land to survive. Examples include growing crops for food or harvesting trees for shelter. However, the land must be taken care of in order for us to use it again and again. That is why it's important that we think of ourselves as caretakers of the land. If we care for the land, the land will care for us.

Ask the group:

- *How will you take care of the land?*
- *How does the land take care of you?*
- *Do you take good care of your toys? Why?*

You take care of the things you own because they provide enjoyment or comfort. Did you know you can own a piece of land and take care of it, too?

A park in Indiana, called the **Children of Indiana Nature Park** (the Park), has been given to the children of Indiana to own. Every child in the state of Indiana can claim their very own piece of the Park, so that they too, can be caretakers of the land. The *Nature IN-DEED* is a special piece of paper that declares you as a landowner, keep this paper safe so you can find your spot for generations to come.

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Be a Little Landowner: How Will You Care for the Land? (30 minutes)



Present deeds to each member of the group. Have them stand up as you read the following script:

Did you know that YOU have been chosen to receive a special gift? Let me ask you something. What do you think of when you hear the "park"? Slides? Swings? Playgrounds? Well, we have a NEW way to think about a park. When you hear that word, we want you to think of trees, birds, insects, and presents. Wait, presents?! Yes, presents.

The State of Indiana has decided to give you a gift, but it's not one that you unwrap, it's one that you protect, just like a special birthday gift. Indiana created The Children of Indiana Nature Park in Centerville, Indiana in honor of you. It doesn't have swings or slides; instead, it has trees, trails, tracks, and turtles. Indiana thinks you are so important, that each one of you can claim a "deed" for a piece of this land.

What's a deed? It means that you are in charge of protecting something special. You can learn about your piece of land and all of the ways it is growing and changing by visiting a special website listed on your deed, ilovemyland.org.

The group can then write their own names on their deeds, if unable to write, you may write their names prior to the activity, or have a group member help.

*If introducing deeds before another conservation-based activity, such as planting a tree or native plant garden:

But how can we protect this land or the land that we live on without learning why it is important? Well, we are going to start today! Today's program is called, [introduce your lesson at this time.] Once I leave you today, you will know why!

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