Butterfly Spotters

MAKE • EXPLORE • DISCOVER | 4–10 with an adult · Time: 25–35 minutes to make; optional short spotting walk

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Color a butterfly, lift its paper wings and make a leaf-shaped explorer tag. Take it to a garden or rainforest path and discover how butterflies look and move.

YOU WILL NEED

Printed Butterfly Spotters pack • Blue, brown and other colored pencils or crayons • Child-safe scissors, glue, reused card and an adult • A permitted garden or established rainforest path for the optional outdoor visit

1. Discover two sides of a butterfly

Read the reference note with your adult: a blue morpho's upper wings are blue with dark margins, while the underside is brown. A butterfly can look different as it opens and closes its wings. Your outline shows the open upper side.

2. Color your butterfly

Color the broad wing spaces blue if making a morpho-inspired tag, with dark margins along the edges. Or use your imagination and call it an invented butterfly. Little Explorers can choose a few large spaces; Junior Explorers can compare patterns on the two wings.

3. Make the leaf backing

Color the leaf on page 3, glue that page onto reused card and cut around the leaf with adult help. Cut out your butterfly from page 2, leaving a small margin around delicate antennae. An adult may do the detailed cutting.

4. Give the wings a gentle lift

Fold gently where each wing joins the narrow body, lifting the wings without cutting them apart. Glue only the body onto the leaf's central strip. Let it dry. Carry it as a card or ask your adult to attach it securely to a backpack.

5. Go butterfly spotting

Watch from a permitted path or garden area with your adult. Notice wing color, whether the wings are open or closed, and whether the butterfly is resting or flying. Do not chase or touch it. Any butterfly observation counts; a blue morpho sighting is a bonus.

6. Record your rainforest discovery

Use the record box to draw what you saw. Circle Resting or Flying and add one color you noticed. If no butterfly appears, draw a plant or shady place you explored and save the butterfly search for another day.

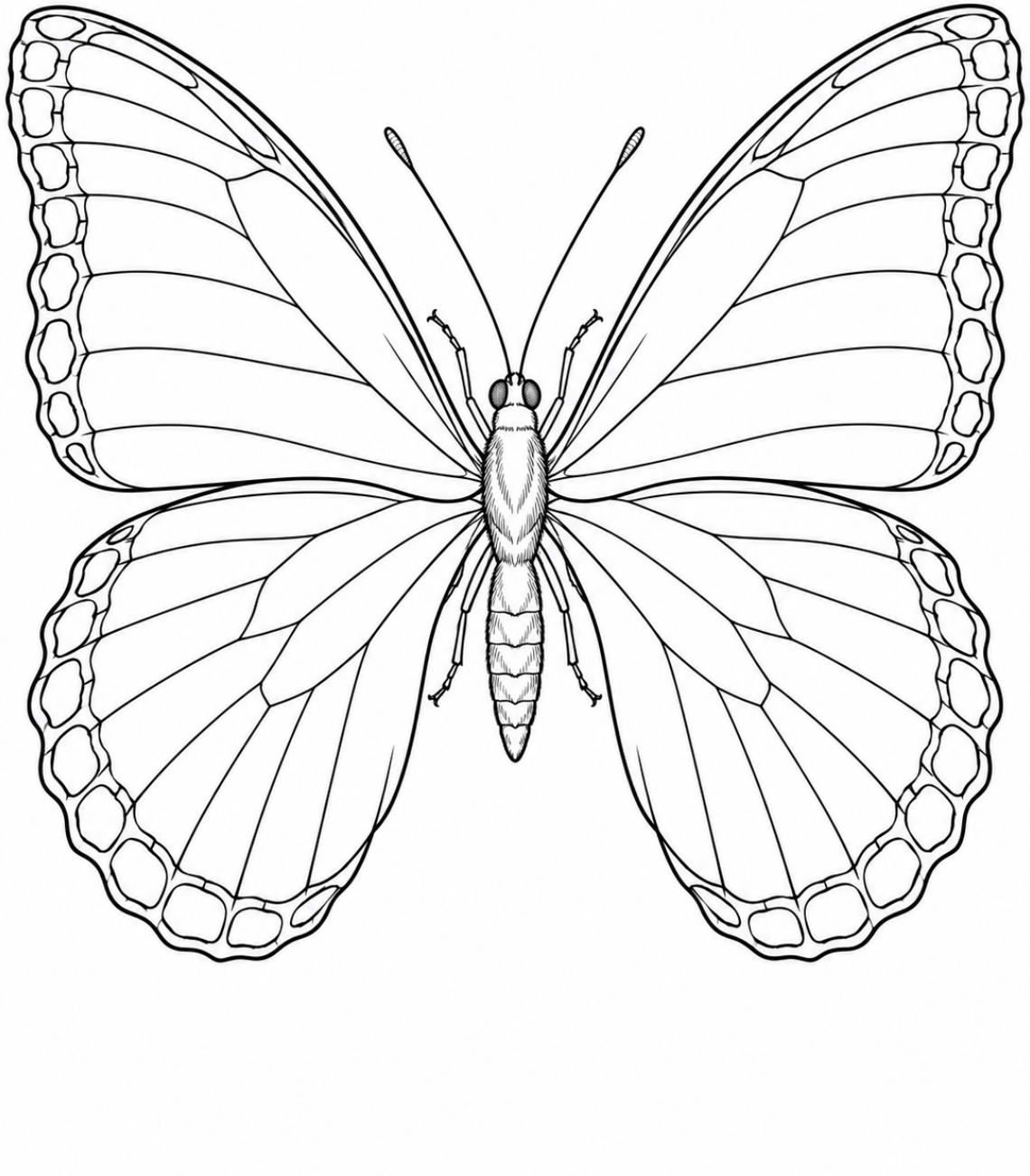
EXPLORE WITH CARE

An adult helps with scissors and attaching the tag. Keep paper and glue away from wildlife. Stay on permitted paths and do not catch butterflies, pick leaves or touch unknown plants. Use a photograph or video on a day when outdoor exploring is not possible.

Background: University of Florida / Florida Museum: blue morphos

Color your butterfly

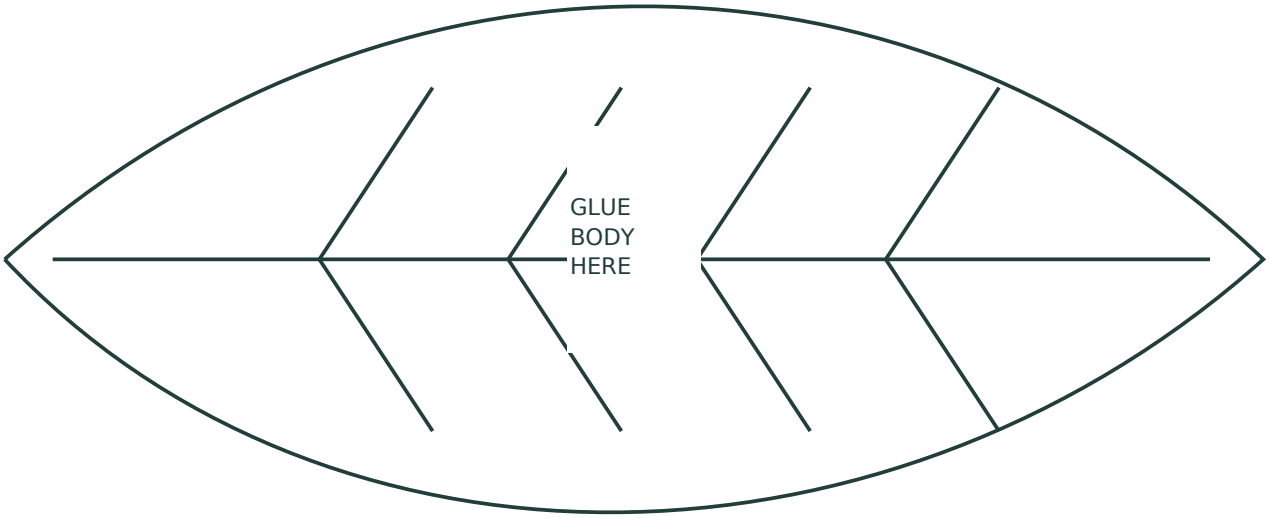
Upper wing view. For a morpho-inspired tag, use blue wing spaces and dark margins.



Color, then cut around the whole butterfly with adult help. Keep wings joined to the body.
On the next page, glue only the body to the leaf; gently lift each wing at its base.

Build your explorer tag

Color the leaf, glue it onto thin card and cut around it. A folded wing can stand above it.



Carry as a card or ask an adult to attach it securely to a backpack.
No neck cord is needed. Keep crafts and glue away from living butterflies.

DRAW A BUTTERFLY OR A PLACE YOU EXPLORED

MY SPOTTING NOTES

[ ] Resting [ ] Flying
[ ] Wings open
[ ] Wings closed
[ ] No butterfly today

Color I noticed:
_____

Place / date:
_____

Blue morphos look blue above and brown beneath. This drawing is a coloring model, not a complete identification guide. Other butterflies count as discoveries too.