

How do butterflies drink?

Have you ever wondered why insects like butterflies have long, thin mouth parts? Find out more about how butterflies drink using our easy to follow experiment.

<https://youtu.be/-Q4fmD06mss>

You will need:

- Three types of drinking straw (wide, medium and narrow)
- A small plastic tub would work well for this (or other flat, shallow container).
- Sellotape
- Red food colouring
- Felt tip marker pen

Experiment instructions:

1. Fill the plastic tub with water and add food colouring.
2. Take the three types of straw – wide, medium and narrow – and tape together so the bottom of them are lined up.
- 3. Place the straws in the water, making sure they don't touch the bottom of the plastic tub, and hold there for 30 seconds.**
4. Mark on each straw with a felt pen where the water reached.
5. Use a ruler to measure and record the distance travelled (mm).

Tips for parents and guardians:

- Ensure children are clear on how to carry out the activity and that they do not attempt to suck the liquid up the straw.

Test your knowledge!

Once complete, test your knowledge by answering the quiz sheet

Why do slugs and snails need slime?

You can make your own slime and learn all about how slugs and snails move upside down and up the sides of your fences and walls.

This activity is especially suitable for children aged 7-14 years old, with supervision and support from an adult to assist with the practical tasks.

<https://youtu.be/BBwuPCsZ9yM>

You will need:

- Two small bowls
- Two teaspoons
- Cornflour
- Toothpaste
- Water

Experiment instructions:

1.Put four teaspoons of cornflour into a bowl.

2.Add water bit by bit, stirring constantly until it gets 'gloopy' – you need to stir slowly.

3.Try the following experiments and record your observations:

- Gently tip the bowl from side to side.
- Move the spoon quickly through the mixture and then move it slowly.
- Pick up some of the mixture in your hands and squeeze it hard.
- Release the mixture through your fingers.
- Prod and tap the mixture.

4.Dispose of the mixture in the bin (not the sink).

5.Squeeze some toothpaste into a clean, dry bowl and repeat the experiments.

Tips for parents and guardians:

- You may need to add more than 4 teaspoons of cornflour to achieve the desired consistency, so don't be afraid to add a bit more slowly, in small quantities.
- Make sure you dispose of the mixtures when you are done in a bin, do not pour down the sink!

Test your knowledge!

Once complete, test your knowledge by answering the quiz sheet