



# The Art of Recycling Two

## Making Butterflies from Coffee Filters



### What You Need:

- Used round paper coffee filters (Remember, when we recycle, we *reuse* something that has been used before. Coffee filters are pretty strong and can take rinsing out and a light sponging. A little irregular color left behind by the coffee grounds is just fine and adds to the uniqueness of your butterfly.)
- Food coloring, watercolor or tempera paint.
- Water and several small bowls (one bowl for each color)
- An eyedropper, fat art brush or straw
- Pipe cleaner or large twist tie
- Newspapers to protect your work area



### What To Do:

1) Put a little bit of water in each bowl (about 1/4 cup) and prepare your painting colors by adding a few drops of food coloring or mixing paint into each bowl.

2) Flatten your dried coffee filter out on the newspaper and use an eyedropper to drop different colors onto the filter in any arrangement that pleases you. The colors will blend together where they meet. If using a straw, dip one end of the straw into your color. Cover the top end of the straw with your finger. This will make several drops of paint stay in the straw. With your finger still over the hole, go over to the filter and take your finger off the top. The paint will drop onto the filter just like it was an eyedropper.

3) Let dry.

4) Pinch the coffee filter together in the middle so that you have two billowy sides, like a bow.

5) Fold a pipe cleaner or twist tie in half. Place the pinched middle of the filter down into the fold of the pipe cleaner and twist the two halves together to secure the center of the butterfly. The extra pipe cleaner or twist tie becomes the antennae of your butterfly.

