

# Butterfly Puddles

by Cindy Blobaum

Most kinds of butterflies get the liquid they need from flower nectar, so why do they sometimes swarm around damp spots? Perhaps you've seen butterflies clustered around a damp spot on a dirt path or road. Those butterflies aren't thirsty. They are puddling. Butterflies "puddle" when they are in search of minerals<sup>1</sup> they need to be healthy, such as sodium and nitrogen.

Since butterflies use their tongues to extract<sup>2</sup> minerals from damp soil or sand, why not create a puddling place for them in your garden or yard?

Follow the directions in the box to create a butterfly puddle. Then enjoy watching the butterflies it attracts!

**What you'll need:**

- a shallow dish (such as the saucer from a plant pot, or a pie pan)
- rich soil (such as topsoil)
- sponges
- scissors
- flat rocks (some light-colored and some dark-colored)

**What to do:**

1. Spread a thin layer of soil in the bottom of the dish.
2. Arrange the rocks in the dish.
3. Cut the sponges into shapes, then place them between the rocks.
4. Wet the sponges so that some water seeps into the soil below, but not so much that there is standing water.
5. Place your butterfly puddle in a sunny area near flowers. Try to keep it out of the wind, and make sure it stays moist.

<sup>1</sup>**minerals:** healthy parts of food

<sup>2</sup>**extract:** to remove

1. What does the word *puddling* mean in the first paragraph?

- A splashing in the water
- B getting something to drink
- C searching for minerals

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2. What does a butterfly need to stay healthy?

- A sodium and nitrogen
- B soil and nectar
- C oxygen and carbon dioxide

3. How do butterflies get minerals from damp soil or sand?
- A by using their legs
  - B by using their wings
  - C by using their tongues

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4. What is the next step after the sponges are cut into shapes and placed between rocks?
- A arrange the rocks in the dish
  - B wet the sponges
  - C place the puddle in a sunny area

5. Why are sponges *most likely* needed to create a butterfly puddle?
- A to keep the soil in the dish wet
  - B to have color in the dish
  - C to give the butterfly a soft place to land
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6. Why do the directions in the box say to place the butterfly puddle near flowers?
- A The flowers will keep the puddle from drying up.
  - B The flowers will make butterflies come to the puddle.
  - C The flowers will add more minerals to the puddle.

7. Why is the information in the box important?
- A It tells about different kinds of butterflies.
  - B It tells how to make a flower garden for butterflies.
  - C It tells how to make a butterfly puddle.

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8. Why would someone read this selection?
- A to learn how to create a butterfly puddle
  - B to learn how a butterfly moves from place to place
  - C to learn how butterflies eat

## End of Set

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## EOG Grade 5 Reading Sample Items

<b>Selection Title</b>	<b>Question Number</b>	<b>Correct Answer</b>	<b>Thinking Skill</b>	<b>Objective Number</b>
Butterfly Puddles	1	C	Knowing	1.01
Butterfly Puddles	2	A	Knowing	2.02
Butterfly Puddles	3	C	Knowing	2.02
Butterfly Puddles	4	B	Organizing	2.02
Butterfly Puddles	5	A	Analyzing	2.05
Butterfly Puddles	6	B	Generating	2.05
Butterfly Puddles	7	C	Analyzing	2.07
Butterfly Puddles	8	A	Analyzing	2.06