

Art in the Glades

OVERVIEW: Many beautiful plants and animals live in the cedar glade ecosystem. Coupled with research, students can learn much from the careful observation of living things. This activity requires careful observation of a common butterfly in the glades.

GRADE LEVEL: 1 – 4

SETTING: Classroom

OBJECTIVE: Students will research the Great Spangled Fritillary, a butterfly that often lives in the limestone cedar glade and will: a) trace the wing pattern from a photograph of the butterfly; b) color and complete the drawing.

LEARNING STANDARDS: GLE 0207.2.1; 0207.2.2

MATERIALS:

Butterfly outline drawing (*attached)
Research materials (color photos of Great Spangled Fritillary)
pencils (can use drawing pencils, if available)
eraser
tape
colored pencils, markers, or crayons
magnifying lens: optional

BACKGROUND: Great Spangled Fritillaries are butterflies that are often seen in the limestone cedar glades. The adult lays eggs in summer on or near violets, the caterpillar hatches, overwinters, and feeds on young violet leaves in the spring. The adults enjoy nectar from a variety of flowers. Easily spotted because of their flashy coloration, these butterflies are a good example of the insect life found in the glades. Students will enjoy drawing and coloring these beautiful butterflies.

PROCEDURE:

Step 1: Research

- Look for color photos of the butterfly from available resources
- Read about their life cycle

Step 2: Observation

- Notice the details of the butterfly, such as
 - How large is the body?
 - What type of pattern do the wings have?
 - What are the colors?

Step 3: Tracing

- Place your drawing paper over the line drawing
- Carefully tape both papers to your classroom window (if no windows are available, good lighting will suffice).
- Lightly trace the outline of the butterfly and all of the details.
- Carefully unfasten your papers from the window.

Step 4: Filling in the Illustration

- Begin by making a black outline around your tracing using your black colored pencil, marker, or crayon.
- Look carefully at the photos and note the little white crescent shapes on the edges of the wings, and then draw them onto your butterfly margins. When the Great Spangled Fritillary is in flight, the white patches on the underside of the wing catch the light and make it easy to identify this butterfly.
- Fill in the wing with the color orange or rust. Make note of the dark patches and the pattern within the wing. Look at your photos as you work.
- Color the large body and head with orange.

Step 5: Finish the Background

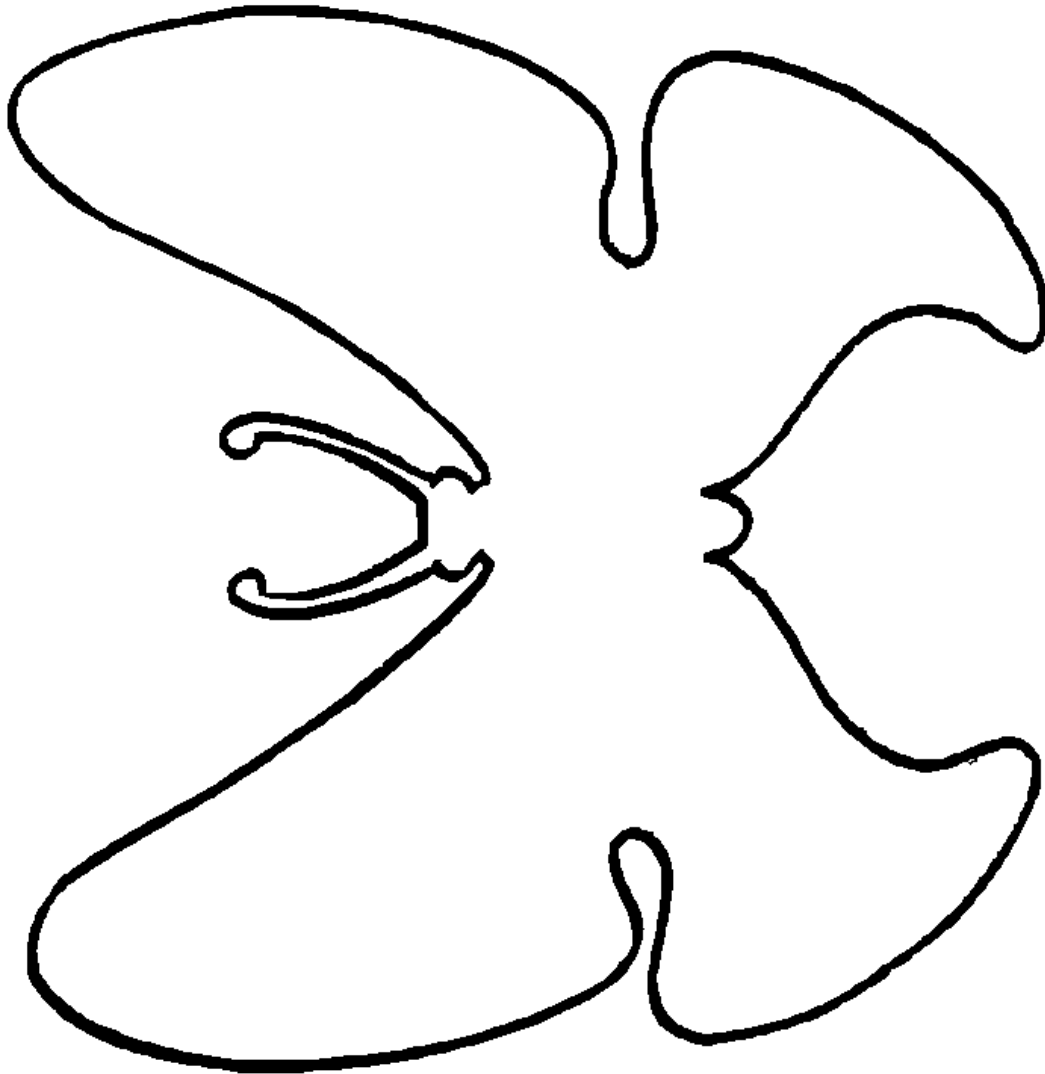
- Add some shapes around your butterfly to suggest movement or a natural setting. Try drawing some violets or another flower that could be a nectar source for the butterfly.
- Keep the background soft and fuzzy so your butterfly will stand out! Green is a good color to use for background.

Adapted from the American Museum of Natural History



Photo By: Ken Neil

Great Spangled Fritillary
Speyeria cybele



Great Spangled Fritillary

