

# Summer Birds: The Butterflies of Maria Merian

## A RIF GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES

**Themes:** Life Science, Insects, Butterflies, History  
**Grade Level:** K to 2nd grade  
**Book Brief:** Maria is fascinated by caterpillars and butterflies. She uses careful observation and her artistic talent to document their life cycles.

**Author:**  
Margarita Engle  
**Illustrator:**  
Julie Paschkis



## TIME TO READ!

**Before reading, make predictions:** What do you think the title means? What are summer birds?

**While reading, look at the**

**pictures:** What do you notice about the butterflies in the illustrations?

**After reading, ask questions:**

- ◆ Why did people think butterflies were evil?
- ◆ Why didn't Maria?
- ◆ Why is it important to learn about things we don't understand?

## RELATED ACTIVITIES

### BUTTERFLIES IN A BLANKET

Ingredients: 2 hot dogs, 1 can crescent rolls, ketchup, mustard

Separate crescent rolls into 8 triangles; leave flat and bake according to package directions. Cook hot dogs according to directions. Serve one hot dog with two rolls on either side as "wings." Let your child use ketchup and mustard to decorate the wings.

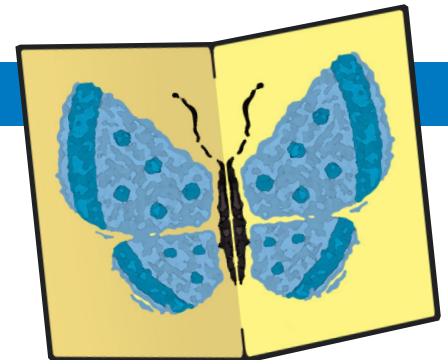
### TAKING NOTE

Become an observer like Maria! Pick a kind of insect or animal you want to learn more about. In a special notebook, keep track of when and where you see the insects and what they do. Draw or take pictures to go with your observations. After a few weeks, look back over everything you've learned.

### BUTTERFLY YLFRETTUB

Materials: paper, paint, paintbrush, pencil

Fold paper in half. In pencil, draw half of a butterfly along the folded edge. Fill in the drawing with paint. Unfold and refold paper, pressing the clean half gently against the painted half. Peel back paper to reveal the whole butterfly. Do both sides look the same?



### TECHNOLOGY LINK

Visit [www.mrnussbaum.com/insects-play/butterfly-intscav/](http://www.mrnussbaum.com/insects-play/butterfly-intscav/) for a butterfly scavenger hunt!

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

### OTHER BOOKS BY THIS AUTHOR

*The Wild Book* (2012),  
*When You Wander* (2013),  
*Mountain Dog* (2013).



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