

EcoMarines Healthy Habitats Challenge

How to Make a Butterfly Puddling Station!



If your school has a garden where butterflies visit, it is a good idea to set up a puddling station for them. The word 'puddling' refers to when butterflies frequent wet mud or sand patches to extract minerals and drink water. Therefore, you can attract more butterflies by having a wet area for butterflies to visit – known as a puddling station 😊.

In Australia, we are very lucky to have over 400 species of butterflies. Butterflies are important as they act as an indicator for a healthy environment, they are an important food source for animals such as birds and lizards and they

are an important pollinator for native plants and flowers. So, get going on creating a healthy habitat for our flying friends!

What You Will Need:

- A shallow old dish or similar (e.g., old bird bath, pot saucer etc.) – as long as it's not too deep
- A collection of rocks or pebbles of different sizes
- A handful of sand, coarse dirt or mud (butterflies do not like to land on open water)
- An area of a garden where butterflies visit or may like to visit

How to Assemble:

1. Get the necessary permission to assemble your butterfly puddling station in your school garden
2. Place the dish on the ground, on a stump or a stand and somewhere where it can easily be found by butterflies
3. Add in some sand/dirt or mud along one side of the dish and the pebbles in the other
4. Pour in some water to fill the dish halfway up. Make sure there are rocks and sandy not fully submerged in the water
5. Decorate your station with flowers and/or plants around the dish to attract your fluttery friends
6. Take a picture and send it to us!

