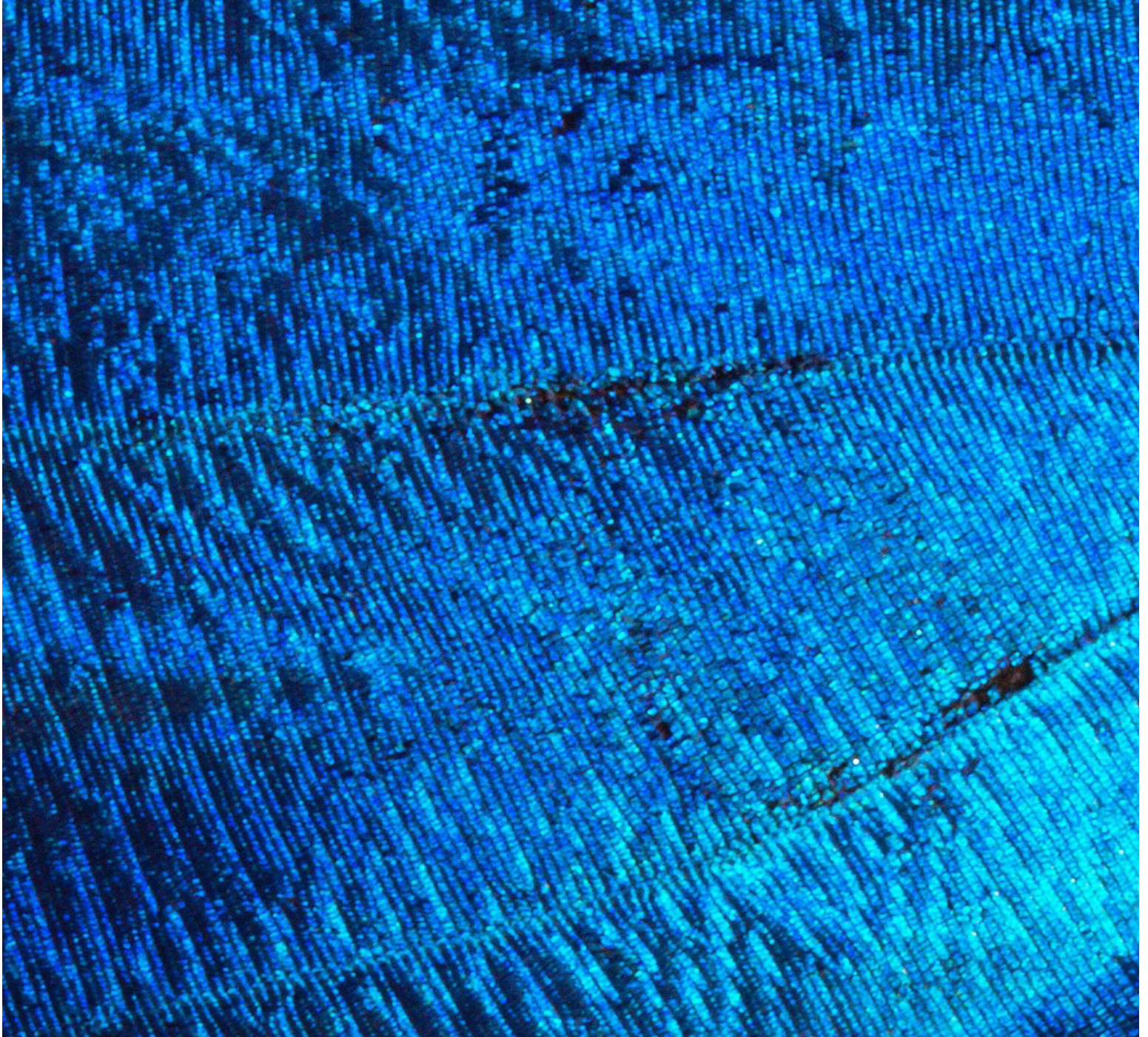




DALLAS ARBORETUM  
Education

*Garden STEAM at Home*  
*Blow Up a Butterfly!:*  
*Connections*



WE GROW MINDS, TOO.



# BLOW UP A BUTTERFLY!



## OBJECTIVE:

STUDENTS WILL EXPLORE COLOR AND PATTERN WHILE HONING THEIR OBSERVATION SKILLS BY CREATING A CLOSE-UP ILLUSTRATION OF A NATURAL OBJECT.

## SOURCE

DickBlick.com

## BACKGROUND

Dick Blick's Blow Up a Butterfly! lesson plan asks students to create a beautiful pastel abstract drawing using a close-up of a natural object. In this case: a butterfly's wing. It discusses the stunning works of American artist Georgia O'Keeffe and her impact on 20th century art.

This lesson represents an outstanding opportunity to explore a number of art (line, color, form) and science topics. See our suggestions below for using the lesson to explore science.

## TAKE IT FURTHER

1. Observation: Using a hand lens or microscope, see the unseen. Ask students to choose an interesting natural object of their choice. Make and record observations using their naked eye. Then, provide magnification to explore how their observations change.
2. Structure and function: Upper elementary students are asked to observe structures and discuss their specific function. A hand lens or microscope introduce students to a different external view than they are used to seeing!
3. Explore camouflage. How does the way we see color change when we explore it up close?
4. Photography: Use a macro setting on a camera to capture the natural world up close. Then, ask students to create an art piece using their preferred photograph.
5. Systems and Change: Explore the topics of systems or change on a micro level. Using a hand lens or microscope creates a lasting impression as students learn about life cycles, seasonal change (i.e. leaf color) and more.

## DIGITAL RESOURCES

Dick Blick Blow Up a Butterfly! Lesson Plan:

<https://assets.ctfassets.net/f1fikihmjtrp/62ijFSfOs2t7qplgLoAxPU/bab8bbac4dbeb93c975ce0ad7af7d095/blow-up-a-butterfly-blow-up-a-butterfly.pdf>

Tate Modern Profile on Georgia O'Keeffe

<https://www.tate.org.uk/kids/explore/who-is/who-georgia-okeeffe>

The Arty Teacher Blog: Artists Who Create Close-Ups

<https://theartyteacher.com/artists-who-create-close-ups/>