Children explore seasonal changes by observing the Red Admiral butterfly, learning about habitats, plant connections, and the butterfly life cycle.

Discovering the Red Admiral Butterfly

Keywords **Red admiral** • **butterfly** • **insect** • **plants** • **observation** • **creativity** • **science**

1. Introduction

Show the video "*Il-Farfett tal-Ħurrieq/The Red Admiral Butterfly*" and ask the children questions to activate prior knowledge:

“Have you seen a butterfly in autumn or winter?”

“What colours can you see on its wings?”

Explain that the Red Admiral is special because it can be seen even in cooler months.

2. Outdoor Observation Activity

Visit a sunny outdoor area such as a garden or playground and encourage the children to look near flowering plants, especially lantana, and along sunny walls or paths.

Point out nettle patches and explain their importance for butterfly eggs and caterpillars.

Highlight the importance of these plants by asking:

“What happens to the butterfly if we take the plant away?”

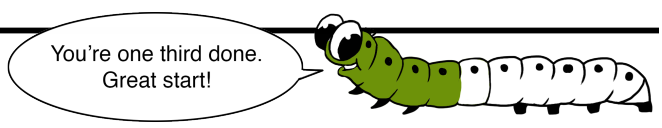
3. Focused Observation & Recording

If a Red Admiral is spotted, observe from a distance:

- Wing colours and patterns;
- Flight style;
- Where it lands.

Children can sketch what they see or note observations with support.

4. Creative / Science Follow-Up



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Once back indoors or outside, children can colour the "*Red Admiral Postcard*" in the Downloadable Materials using paint, crayons, or natural materials (leaves, small stones). Link this activity to science by briefly discussing the butterfly life cycle (egg → caterpillar → chrysalis → butterfly).

Send photos of

- ☐ Children observing sunny garden areas
- ☐ Children sketching or recording observations
- ☐ Butterfly sightings (if possible)
- ☐ Finished Red Admiral artwork

Resources & Equipment Needed

- Magnifying glasses (optional);
- Art and craft supplies of your choice;

