The Butterfly Project is an amazing initiative that combines art, education, and remembrance of the Holocaust. It is an interactive global project that has involved thousands of people of all ages and backgrounds in its goal of creating and dedicating ceramic butterflies to the 1.5 million children lost to the Holocaust.

**Important Note:** By the time this project is introduced students should have a basic understanding of the Holocaust. Please see [www.communityoneinitiative.com](http://www.communityoneinitiative.com) or email coi.ircfl@gmail.com for resources, materials, lesson plans, questions, and feedback.

**Part 1: Creating the Butterflies**

Objectives:

* Students will learn about the Holocaust and the experience of children during that time
* Students will learn about The Butterfly Project and their mission.
* Students will create their own ceramic butterflies as symbols of remembrance and hope, and of being an up-stander in the face of prejudice.

Materials:

* Clay and molds or pre-fired ready to paint ceramic butterflies
* Patio paints
* Paint brushes
* Examples to show students
* Mixed media resources related to the Holocaust and children’s experiences during that time.
* Biography cards
* Space and materials for displaying the butterflies

 Introduction:

If you would like Rabbi Birnholz, or someone else familiar with this project, to present to your class - please let us know as soon as possible so that we can schedule it in advance. If you would like to present yourself, Rabbi has put his presentation into a slide show that is available as well as a lesson plan for you to use as a guide that is available on the COI website or by emailing coi.ircfl@gmail.com

* Ask students what they know about the Holocaust
* Share the story of Friedl Dicker-Brandies and a poem by Pavel Friedmann titled “The Last Butterfly”. This is an example of art that was made in response to hatred/prejudice in the world. While the people who made it died, others protected and preserved it so that we can share their story and honor their memory in our own time and beyond.
* Explain they will be making and displaying butterflies as symbols of remembrance and hope and the mission of The Butterfly Project

Body:

* Presenter or media related to children and the Holocaust – make it relatable to the students
* Explain the butterfly symbolism and how it relates to the Holocaust and The Butterfly Project.
* Pass out biography cards, pick a few to read together
* Give students materials to create their own butterfly art projects and instruct them to create a butterfly that represents hope and remembrance for the children who lost their lives during the Holocaust. Allow students to be as creative as they want and encourage them to share their projects with the class

Garden/display

* How and where are butterflies being displayed?
* Is there an event of dedication or opening of the display?
* Who will be in attendance? Whole school, just certain classes…?

Conclusion:

* Remind students of the importance of remembering those who lost their lives during the Holocaust and how we create moments to stop and remember.
* Discuss the importance of keeping memories alive.

**Part 2: The Butterfly Display**

Objectives:

* Re-instill the previous lessons on the Holocaust
* Create a butterfly garden/display of students work as a memorial

Materials:

* That’s up to you and your school where you plan to put your memorial garden. Examples include: Tree shaped structures with hanging butterflies or a painted scene with attached butterflies. C.O.I. can assist with sourcing materials.

Introduction:

* Ask students what they remember from the previous lesson
* Discuss the importance of remembering the lives and stories of those who died

Body:

* Read the poem “The Butterfly” by Pavel Friedmann
* Have the students in groups write something related to the holocaust and memories.
* Return finished butterflies to the students
* By group, have students place their butterflies on the display and read to the class what they wrote.

Conclusion:

* Remind students of the importance of keeping memories alive and doing our part to help.
* Encourage students to pause and reflect when they see their memorial.