



## **Caterpillar life cycle activities**

Grade Level(s): K, 1 Subject(s): Science/Entomology, Arts Duration: 30-45 minutes Description The activity is intended to teach the life cycle of a butterfly. Science/Entomology, Arts Duration: 30-45 minutes Description The activity is intended to teach the life cycle of a butterfly. their needs in different ways. As a basis for understanding this concept: a. Students know different plants and animals inhabit different kinds of places. b. Students know both plants and animals need food, and plants need light. c. Students know animals eat plants or other animals for food and may also use plants or even other animals for shelter and nesting. Objective: Students will role play and draw the various stages an insect goes through to become a butterfly. Materials The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle string and paper butterfly (teacher-made) white sheet pretend butterfly. wings (teacher-made) butterfly puppet (if available) journals crayons live caterpillar in a jar (optional for observations during a butterfly. Butterfly. Butterfly unit) Procedure Getting Ready: Know the stages a butterfly unit) Procedure Getting Ready (Know the stages a butterfly unit) Procedure Getting Ready (Know the stages a butterfly unit) Procedure Getting Ready (Know the stages a butterfly unit) Procedure Getting Ready (Know the stages a butterfly unit) Procedure Getting Ready (Know the stages a butterfly unit) Procedure Getting Ready (Know the stages a butt things they have eaten. There are some differences in moths and butterflies have 3 main body regions (head, thorax, abdomen); butterflies have a smaller thorax than moths; butterflies have a smaller thorax, abdomen); butterflies have a smaller thorax than moths and girls, I am going to do a magic trick, and I want you to watch very carefully what I am about to do." Get an ordinary string and stretch it out... (Keeping one hand clutched in a ball with a paper butterfly inside)... as children watch, slowly stick the string inside the balled up hand from the top. When the string is all inside, tell the children something magical is happening to the string. Have them count slowly to three and then pull out the butterfly from the bottom. While you are flittering it around with the other hand, the one holding the string in your pocket. Students will be amazed! 'Today we are going to see the different stages a caterpillar goes through to become a butterfly... like my string caterpillar did. I will do this again at the end of the lesson and let you in on my secret... but you must be good listeners." Activity: Read the story, The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle. Stop periodically to ask questions to internalize the story. Choose the best listeners to act out the story. One child can be the caterpillar and other children can pretend to be the food items. The caterpillar begins in a ball position until it hatches. It crawls out and around as the story is re-read and eats the food. It crawls under the sheet (chrysalis) and puts on wings... when the story is re-read and eats the food. It crawls under the sheet (chrysalis) and puts on wings... when the story is re-read and eats the food. It crawls under the sheet (chrysalis) and puts on wings... when the story is re-read and eats the food. It crawls under the sheet (chrysalis) and puts on wings... when the story is re-read and eats the food. tell the scientific name for the stage of the caterpillar. Going Further: Have children make the movements of a caterpillar with their hands while you show with a puppet: egg (hand in fist position) larva (index finger extended, scrunched) pupa (index finger inside other hand's fist like hot dog) butterfly (two hands interlocking an doing flying motion) Closure Conduct the "magic trick" again. This time slow down so students can see what happened. Give them a piece of string and a butterfly to try on their own. Students will be allowed to take the string home and demonstrate it to a family member. Assessment In their journals, students should draw the various stages a butterfly goes through. Students may label the pictures using invented spelling. < back to Teaching Tools One of my most favorite songs in the entire universe is named, "Butterfly" by Lenny Kravitz. As I write up this post, I listen to the beautiful melody and lyrics. My muse. I highly recommend firing that song up while reading this post and thinking about your caterpillar to butterfly life cycle crafts for preschoolers. Caterpillar to Butterfly Learning Activities Before I do any of the activities outlined below, I am going to take one of the coloring pages and sit with my son as the colors away. As he is coloring the image of the butterfly, I am going to talk about the life cycle and give him a sense of our journey over the next week or so. Sensory We're using homemade play dough to attempt to create the life cycle of a butterfly. I am using TeacherTube video on butterflies as inspiration and our guide. Art We're going to start with coloring. I found some wonderful FREE coloring pages online. Math There are four stages to metamorphosis so that is what we'll focus on matching the numbers to the stage using Melissa & Doug magnet numbers. Along with these great life cycle stamps for sequencing. Check out this FREE printout of the stages from The Children's Butterfly Site. In addition, it is easy enough to find images of each stage to play a simple matching the image game. We'll also be using this nifty hands-on Butterfly Lifecycle set. Using a print out of the life cycle as a guide, you and your child can match the four stages. We matched the individual stage coloring pages to our life cycle set, and the number 1 through 4 to represent each stage. Fine Motor Skill Activities Puzzles are a great tool for children to work on pattern recognition and hand/eye coordination. Michael Olaf wrote up a great piece on this topic. We're using a beautiful puzzle I found at a local consignment shop. This puzzle has a wonderful image for your child to color. In addition, I found this great little Eeboo butterfly and bugs matching and memory game on Amazon for a good price. We opened it yesterday when it arrived and he was thrilled with it. There are a few different activities you can do with these matching and teaching Mandarin so we'll review butterfly vocabulary in Mandarin. So we look at pictures, listen to pronunciation and say the words back and forth to one another. Simple for now. Reading & Writing This section is broken up into new vocabulary words, reading and storytelling. Vocabulary words that we'll be discussing using images and three-part matching cards. Books: We're really lucky to have access to a fabulous library system. So we were able to check out most of the following books. Some of these books are for slightly older children but in each book, the images are worthy of a conversation with your preschooler at the very least. Let me know if you would like additional insight on the books listed below. The books we'll be reading and focused on are: From Caterpillar to Butterfly, My Oh My Oh Butterfly, Fly, Monarch! Fly!, Butterflies Magical Metamorphosis, A Butterflies in the Garden, The Very Hungry Caterpillar Storytelling: We're using a felt board set that I purchased on Etsy for a very reasonable price. You should check out this store. Wonderful creations. Of course, if you are handy enough and have the time, go ahead and create felt pieces on your own! Practical Life The book mentioned, Fly, Monarch! Fly!, above has a very cute "recipe" for Butterfly Sandwiches so that is what we'll have for lunch. My son will help me gather the sandwich items, make the sandwich, cut the sandwich and then create the butterfly from carrot sticks, cherry tomato, and celery sticks. I'll take a photo for you all to see (and cheer me on/pat my back/etc). Science Obviously this whole lesson is centered on science. We'll be doing a lot of hands-on activities but also accessing online resources. For example, this site has simple descriptions of each stage of the life cycle. Accompanied by REAL images, this write up is simple enough so that you can talk with your preschooler about the stages and he/she won't get too lost. This site also has a good and simple write up on the life cycle - no images but the write up does include time stamps, which is very helpful. This YouTube video shows a time lapse of metamorphosis, a change the typically takes place in 2-3 weeks, in just under four minutes. I think any person, no matter how young or old, is sure to be captivated by this amazing video. Physical Activity We are going to use this adorable life cycle lesson I found on The Children's Butterfly Site that uses Eric Carle's The Very Hungry Caterpillar. The children act out metamorphosis, which requires a lot of bending and stretching (and flying) as you can imagine. My goal is to integrate yoga into my homeschooling philosophy and curriculum. So, without even realizing it, I believe this educator accomplished that goal. There is a book called Yoga Zoo Adventure that I highly recommend - there are poses for many of the aspects of the butterfly's life cycle. Go to page 84 for the start of the cycle! Loads of fun! Field Trip Lastly, as we have done in the past (the true inspiration to this lesson), we will take an excursion to our local science center. We are so fortunate here in Seattle to have the Pacific Science Center and the Tropical Butterfly House. Adults are as in love with this permanent exhibit as are the children. Butterflies fly around you, land on your head, arms, back, etc and there is a display of various species of butterflies at different points of the life cycle. Fascinating is not a strong enough word to describe the wonder of this place. I am in love to say the very least. We are also planning a trip to a local P-Patch to seek out eggs, caterpillars, chrysalis and if we are lucky, gorgeous butterflies. My son was really into this idea after reading, Fly, Monarch! Fly! Technology Currently obsessed with a Lifecycle App I found for the iPad and iPhone. Enjoy!Marnie caterpillar life cycle activities for preschool. hungry caterpillar life cycle activities. the very hungry caterpillar life cycle activities for kindergarten. what is the life cycle of the caterpillar

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