



Egg Carton Caterpillars

Goals

Students will understand the life cycle of a butterfly.

Objectives

Students will draw the life cycle of a butterfly and make a creative representation of the caterpillar phase.

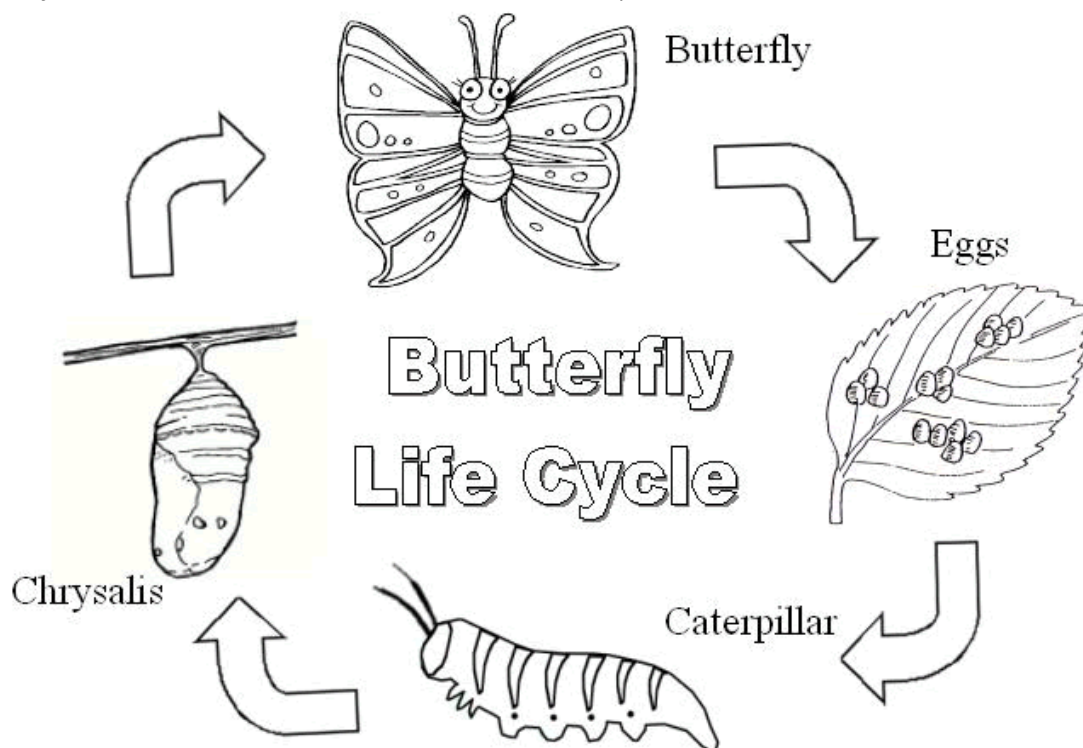
Materials

- Egg cartons
- Pipe cleaners
- Markers
- Hole punchers
- Paint & brushes
- Scissors
- Journals
- Butcher paper or poster board

Time: 30 minutes

Advanced Preparation

Designing and planting gardens intended to attract butterflies can be a very rewarding activity for students. Your butterfly garden could be a plot of ground or a container garden. You should select a variety of plants for continuous bloom that will appeal to a variety of butterflies, such as lantana for monarchs, coreopsis for fritillaries, and lilies for tiger swallowtails. You can also include the butterfly bush, which attracts butterflies like no other plant.



Background Information

All butterflies have “complete metamorphosis.” To grow into an adult they go through four stages: egg, larva (caterpillar), pupa (chrysalis), and adult (butterfly). Each stage has a different goal – for instance, caterpillars need to eat a lot, and adults need to reproduce. Depending on the type of butterfly, the life cycle may take anywhere from one month to a whole year.

Introduction (10 min)

Pass out journals and pencils to students. On the butcher paper or poster board draw and discuss the life cycle of a butterfly. Have students copy the life cycle into their journals. Label the phases.

Activity Steps (15 min)

1. Explore the garden and search for butterflies. See if you can find any butterflies in other stages of their life cycle. Be sure to turn over leaves to see the backsides when searching for caterpillars, eggs and/or chrysalis.
2. Bring the students together at a workspace. Select students to cut the egg cartons in half lengthwise. The other students can punch two holes at the top of one end.
3. Give each student one half of the egg carton and two pipe cleaners. Demonstrate for students how to insert the pipe cleaners and attach them to their caterpillar. Have students attach their own pipe cleaners.
4. Students can use markers or paints to make eyes and decorate their caterpillars.

Conclusion (5 min)

Have each student in the group say one word that they associate with butterflies. Try not to have students repeat answers.

Notes

