

Science Story Adventures



Butterfly Life Cycle

Learning outcomes

- » The sequential stages of life cycles are different for different animals. (Grade 2 - Life Sciences)
- » Animals eat plants or other animals for food and may also use plants or even other animals for shelter and nesting. (Grade 1 - Life Sciences)
- » Organisms reproduce offspring of their own kind and that the offspring resemble their parents and one another. (Grade 2 - Life Sciences)

From: California's Science Content Standards

Books we read

Waiting for Wings by Lois Ehlert
Butterflies on Carmen Street / Mariposas en la Calle Carmen
by / por Monica Brown

Activities we did

- » We acted out the life cycle of a butterfly.
- » We examined various butterfly specimens and photos of host plants for caterpillars. We talked about how many caterpillars depend on specific types of plants for food, but when they become butterflies they often feed on other types of plants.
- » We looked at a monarch specimen and learned about the long migration monarchs undertake.

Today's craft: Butterfly Life Cycle Mobile

You will need:

- » Butterfly life cycle template (included)
- » Cardstock
- » Colored pencils or crayons
- » Scissors
- » Paper plate
- » Hole puncher
- » Yarn (8 pieces about 20 inches (51 cm) long)



Directions:

1. Print out the butterfly life cycle template on cardstock.
2. Color in the stages of the life cycle and then cut each one out, leaving a border around them.
3. Decorate the paper plate with flowers if you want.
4. Punch a hole in the top of each of the stages of the life cycle and punch four holes at different points around the edge of the paper plate.
5. Attach the stages of the life cycle to the paper plate using the yarn. Attach a second piece of yarn to each hole on the paper plate and then join the four pieces at the top and tie a knot.

Want to find out more?

Here is a selection of further resources to explore in the Naturalist Center, in the public library or at home. Please ask if you can't find what you're looking for.

Books

The Butterfly Book: A Kid's Guide to Attracting, Raising, and Keeping Butterflies by Kersten Hamilton. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QL544.2 .H35 1997

Everything you want to know to study the butterflies that live near you.

Butterflies and Moths by Nic Bishop. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QL544.2 .B48 2009

Bishop's amazing photographs and engaging text takes the reader into the world of butterflies and moths.

Face to Face with Caterpillars by Darlyne A. Murawski. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QL544 .M87 2007

Get up close and personal with a variety of caterpillars. Includes information on how to spot caterpillars, how to help protect caterpillars and butterflies and a list of further resources to learn even more.

From Caterpillar to Butterfly by Dr. Gerald Legg. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QL544.2 .L43 2000

Informative text and detailed illustrations introduce the life cycle of butterflies. In Chinese and English.

Monarch Butterfly by Gail Gibbons. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QL561 .D3 G53

This first reference book outlines the life cycle of the monarch butterfly and talks about the amazing journey these small creatures make.

A Place for Butterflies by Melissa Stewart. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QL544.2 .S746 2006

Lush illustrations and simple text introduce the variety of habitats where butterflies live and what we can do to help protect them.

Material prepared by staff of the Naturalist Center at the California Academy of Sciences

DVDs

Butterfly and Moth. Nat. Ctr. Media QL542 .B88 2006
Explore the life cycle of butterflies and moths and learn what distinguishes a butterfly from a moth. Part of the Eyewitness series.

Wild Kratts: Creature Adventures. Nat. Ctr. Media PN1992.77 .W55 2011

Join the Kratt brothers for the episode "Voyage of the Butterflifer XT," which explores the wonders of monarch migration.

Websites

Butterflies and Moths of North America

<http://www.butterfliesandmoths.org/>

An online database of sightings of moths and butterflies throughout North America. Includes identification tools of both caterpillars and butterflies and background information on various species.

The Children's Butterfly Site

<http://www.kidsbutterfly.org/>

Photos, life histories, lesson plans, coloring sheets and more about butterflies.

Monarch Watch

<http://www.monarchwatch.org/>

Created and maintained by the Kansas Biological Survey at the University of Kansas, this site provides an overview of monarch biology, ways to raise monarchs in your classroom and information about their various citizen science projects.

North American Butterfly Association

<http://www.naba.org/>

A wealth of information about butterflies in North Amer-

