



Science



Literacy

# BUTTERFLY LIFE CYCLE

## Grade Level

1-5

## Length of Lesson

45 minutes

## Objective

By completing this activity, students will have a better understanding of the life cycle of a butterfly.

## Materials

- Small paper plates
- Markers
- Scissors
- Glue
- Couscous pasta
- Rotini pasta
- Shell pasta
- Bowtie pasta
- Green construction paper (optional)

## Standards

### Common Core

CCSS.ELA-

Literacy.RL.K.9;

RL.K.10; RI.K.9;

RI.K.10 ; RF.K.1;

RF.K.2; RF.K.3; W.K.3;

W.K.8; SL.K.5

### NGSS

K-LS1-1; K-ESS3-1; K-

ESS2-2

## Lesson Summary

This lesson uses pasta to create a fun way for students to strengthen their sequencing skills while learning about the stages of a butterfly's life. This is the perfect lesson to also teach about the importance of pollinators!

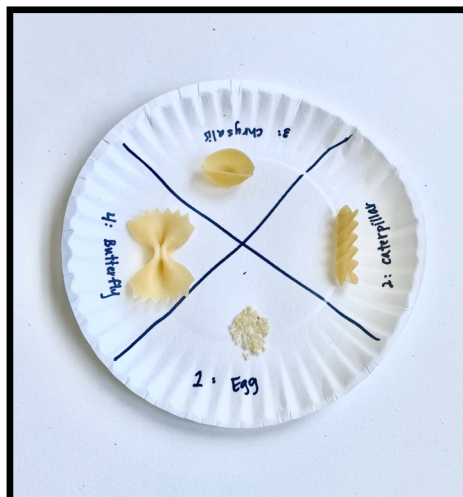
## Suggested Sequence of Events:

1. Set Up: (Optional) Cut out leaf shapes from the green construction paper, four for each student. This will get glued down first and then the pasta glued on top.
2. Read: "[The Very Hungry Caterpillar](#)" by Eric Carle to capture student interest.
3. Read through the AITC Pollination Ag Mag to learn more about pollinators. Interactive versions can be found on our website.
4. Complete the activity following the procedures:
  - Give each student a small paper plate.
  - Using a marker, have them write out the names of the four stages on their paper plate. "Egg" at the top left, "Larva" at the top right, "Pupae" at the bottom right, and "Butterfly" at the bottom left.
    - For younger students, students with IEP's, or to reduce time of lesson, use the attached student worksheet instead of the paper plate. Put the glue dots right on the black dots and then add the correct pasta to each stage.
  - Draw arrows clockwise from "Egg" to "Larva," "Larva" to "Pupae" and so forth.
  - Put a dot of glue under "Egg" and drop a pinch of couscous on it.
  - Put a dot of glue under "Larva" and place a rotini pasta on it.
  - Put a dot of glue above "Pupae" and place a shell pasta on it.
  - Put a dot of glue above "Butterfly" and place a bow-tie pasta on it.
5. Whole class discussion and reflection of activity. Pair students together and have them use their pasta models to tell the butterfly life cycle to their partner!

# TEACHER RESOURCES

## Extension Ideas:

- Have students make a flip book of the life cycle of a butterfly and write about what happens at each stage and how long each stage takes.
- Read "[Egg to Butterfly](#)" by Shannon Zemlicka. Look at the pictures and have students compare the images with their pasta life cycles.
- Complete AITC "Bag Butterfly" activity to create butterflies out of a Ziploc Bag!
  - Place colored construction paper, cellophane, or confetti into the Ziploc® bag. Leave about an inch of the Ziploc® unfilled.
  - Seal the Ziploc® and fold the unfilled portion of the bag to the back of your butterfly.
  - Wrap a black pipe cleaner around the middle of your Ziploc® bag and twist it at the top. Shape the pipe cleaner to make it look like antennae.
- Have students create a comic strip showing the butterfly life cycle.
- Have students tell a story from a caterpillar's perspective.
- Show a labeled diagram of butterfly.
- The Monarch is the Illinois state butterfly. Watch this video on YouTube to learn more about these beautiful butterflies. [Monarch Butterfly | Amazing Animals](#)
- Read "[Monarch Butterfly](#)" by Gail Gibbons.
- Show a time-lapse of a caterpillar transforming into a butterfly.
- Learn about different species of butterflies. What butterflies are native to Illinois?
- Compare butterflies to moths.
- Take a closer look at butterflies and other pollinators. What is pollination? Why is it important for plants? Why is it important for agriculture?
  - Read "[Honeybee: The Busy Life of Apis Mellifera](#)" by Candace Fleming.
- Go to [www.agintheclassroom.org](http://www.agintheclassroom.org) to contact your County Literacy Coordinator for free classroom sets of our Ag Mags!





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## STUDENT WORKSHEET

