

# LESSON 18:

# BUTTERFLY LIFE CYCLE

## SUPPLIES

### PENCIL BOX

- Pencils
- Markers
- Scissors
- Glue Sticks

### MAIN BIN

- Mini Paper Plates (20)
- Mini pom-poms (20)
- Pipe cleaners (40)
- Paper muffin liner (20)

### FOLDER

- Green Construction Paper (2)
- Life Cycle Templates (7)

## OBJECTIVES

- Understand the four stages of the butterfly life cycle: egg, caterpillar, chrysalis, butterfly
- Learn the meaning of the word "metamorphosis."

## HOOK

🕒 1-2 min

Ask students if they have ever seen a butterfly. Then ask if they have ever seen a caterpillar. Did they know that a caterpillar turns into a butterfly? This process is called **metamorphosis**, which means a big change!

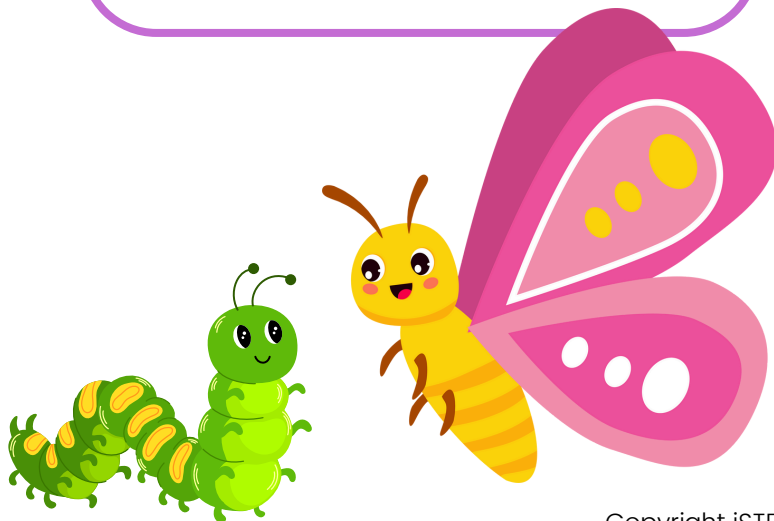
## INTRODUCTION

🕒 2-3 min

Let's explore the life cycle of a butterfly! A butterfly doesn't start out as a butterfly. It goes through four different stages before it can fly! Here are the stages:

1. **Egg.** Every butterfly starts as a tiny egg. The mother butterfly lays her eggs on leaves. The eggs are very small. Some look like little dots!
2. **Caterpillar.** When the egg hatches, out comes a caterpillar! The caterpillar's job is to eat and grow. It munches on lots of leaves and gets bigger and bigger.
3. **Chrysalis.** When the caterpillar is ready, it forms a chrysalis (also called a pupa) around itself. Inside, something magical happens!
4. **Butterfly.** Finally, the chrysalis opens, and out comes a beautiful butterfly! At first, its wings are soft and wet, but soon they dry and it can fly away to find flowers and lay eggs, starting the life cycle all over again.

In today's class, we are going to do an art project that shows the four stages of the butterfly life cycle!



## STORYTIME

🕒 5 min

Once upon a time in a colorful garden, a delicate butterfly began its journey. This butterfly's life started as a tiny, round egg, carefully laid on the underside of a green leaf by its mother. The egg was small and camouflaged, a tiny dot resting among the leaves.

As days passed, warmth from the sun encouraged the egg to hatch. Out came a small caterpillar, often called a larva. This little creature was hungry and ready to explore its new world. It munched on leaves, growing bigger and bigger with each passing day. The caterpillar was not just eating. It was preparing for something magical. With each bite, it stored energy for the transformation ahead.

After some time, the caterpillar felt a change coming. It found a safe spot and began to weave itself into a silky cocoon, known as a chrysalis. Inside this protective shell, an incredible transformation took place. The caterpillar was changing, undergoing a remarkable metamorphosis. While the outside looked still, inside, it was busy reshaping itself into something entirely new!

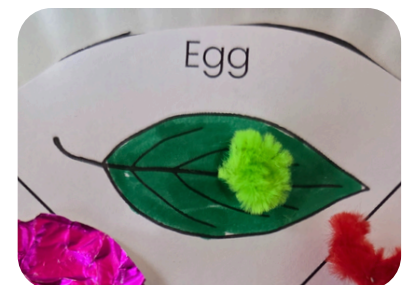
Finally, after days of waiting, the moment arrived. The chrysalis began to crack, and out emerged a beautiful butterfly! At first, its wings were crumpled and wet, but with a few gentle flaps, the butterfly pumped its wings until they were strong and vibrant.

The butterfly took its first flight, dancing through the garden filled with bright flowers and shimmering sunlight. It was free to explore, sip nectar from blossoms, and flutter among the colorful petals. As it glided gracefully, it remembered its journey from a tiny egg to a lively caterpillar to the magical chrysalis, and finally, to a breathtaking butterfly. And so, the butterfly lived happily, sharing the beauty of its transformation with the world and, one day, laying its own eggs to start the butterfly life cycle again.

## ACTIVITY

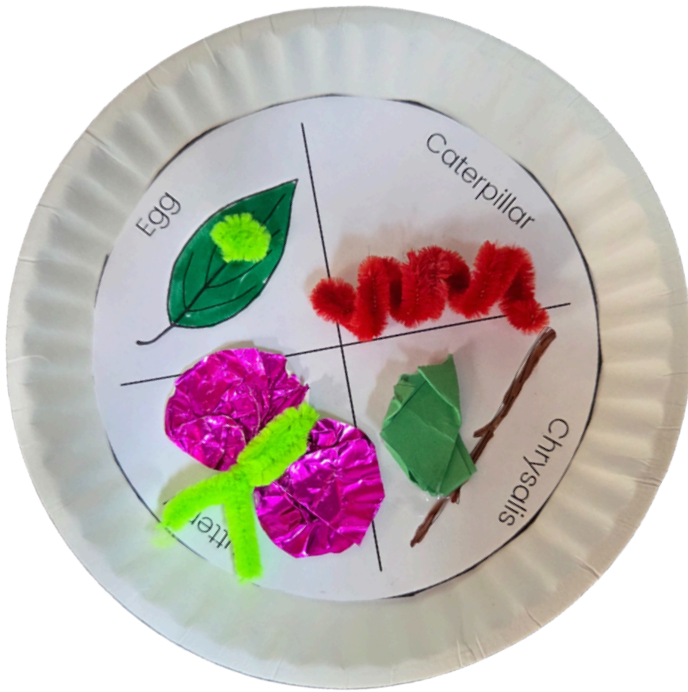
🕒 30 min

1. For this activity, each student will make their own butterfly life cycle. Pass out a paper plate and a life cycle template. Have students cut out and glue the template to the inner circle of the paper plate.
2. In the Egg section with the leaf, have students color the leaf and glue a pom pom on the leaf. This will represent the egg.
3. In the Caterpillar section, have students choose a pipe cleaner, fold it in half, and wrap it around a pencil. Then can then glue or tape to the paper plate.



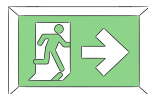
4. In the Chrysalis section, cut out a 2 x 2 inch piece of construction paper for each student and have them crumple it. Glue or tape next to the twig image.

5. Lastly, in the Butterfly section, cut 3 inch segments of pipe cleaner and pass one to each student along with a paper liner liner. Have them pinch the liner in the middle and wrap the pipe cleaner around for antenna. Glue or tape the butterfly in place to complete the full life cycle!



## MOVEMENT BREAK

Unfur! like a butterfly! Instruct students to crouch down, like a chrysalis! On your command, students will stand up VERY slowly, eventually stretching their arms and flapping like a butterfly. Once they have unfurled, clap X number of times, and have them flap their "wings" X many times. Remind students to move slowly, and make sure they have enough personal space before starting the activity.

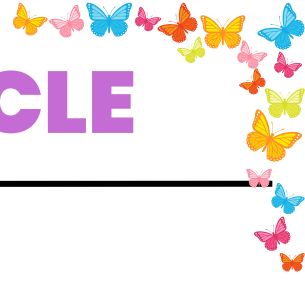


### Exit Ticket



Ask students the following question as they walk out the door.

- Q: What are the four stages of the butterfly life cycle?
  - A: Egg, Caterpillar, Chrysalis, Butterfly!
- Q: What does the word "metamorphosis" mean?
  - A: A big change!



## LIFE CYCLE TEMPLATE

