



Butterfly Life Cycle

Did you know that a Butterfly was once a caterpillar? Let's explore the life cycle of a butterfly to learn more!

Let's watch this video that follows the life cycle of a butterfly!

<https://youtu.be/O1S8WzwLPIM>

Here is a really cool time lapse video of metamorphosis

<https://youtu.be/kVm5k99PnBk>

An adult butterfly lays an egg, when it hatches a caterpillar emerges. The caterpillar spends its days eating leaves and plants to fill itself up as it grows big. When the caterpillar is big enough it will form a chrysalis, or chrysalis around itself. It will stay inside of the chrysalis for more than two weeks. During the time in the chrysalis, a caterpillar changes into a butterfly. When it is time to come out, the butterfly nibbles a little hole to come out of. It slowly makes its way out and lets its wings dry off before taking flight for the first time as a butterfly. When the butterfly is old enough to lay eggs, the cycle will start over again!

Life cycle



The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle is a great story that follows one Caterpillar's journey to becoming a butterfly

<https://youtu.be/75NOK-Sm1YY>

La oruga muy hambrienta

<https://youtu.be/0Xji5krOhTI>

Can you identify what is happening in each of the pictures? Can you predict what is going to happen in the next picture?





Here you can watch a recorded video of butterfly chrysalis from the Florida Museum of Natural History. They also have time lapse video of the butterfly life cycle that is really neat!

<https://www.floridamuseum.ufl.edu/exhibits/butterfly-rainforest/chrysalis-cam/>

Did you know that Monarch butterflies migrate? What is another animal that migrates? That's right birds migrate some where warmer for the winter and then return in the spring! Have you noticed the birds around you home? When you spend time outside try to spot butterflies and birds!



<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/pollinators/migratingmonarchs.htm>

Let's create a butterfly life cycle with things we can find around our home!

Materials:

- Empty egg carton
- Scissors (for adult to use)
- Coffee filter
- Markers
- Squirt bottle with water
- Clothes pin, paper clip, string, pipe cleaner or some other item to finish your butterfly
- Anything else you would like to use to decorate your caterpillar or butterfly.



Steps

1. Adult please cut the lid of the egg carton and set to the side. Cut the two rows of the egg carton apart. Cut one single egg holder.



2. Decorate the egg carton pieces as an egg, the caterpillar and a chrysalis.



3. Decorate the coffee filter to be the butterfly



4. Spray the coffee filter with water so the colors will run and make a



new pattern

5. Use your craft project to share a butterfly life cycle with your friends! Please upload pictures or a video of you telling the butterfly life cycle to Walking Mountains Science Center Facebook Page

