

The Life Cycle of a Butterfly

Kindergarten, First Grade

Science

95 minutes

by Mrs. Melendez

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Let your students spread their wings with this lesson that teaches them about the life cycle of a butterfly. A fun song will get your class moving and a variety of different worksheets will suit any class.

Learning Objectives

Students will be able to identify the sequence of a butterfly's life cycle.

Materials and Preparation

- [Butterfly, Butterfly!](#) by Harry Kindergarten Music
- Pictures of real eggs, caterpillars, chrysalises, and butterflies
- *From Caterpillar to Butterfly (Let's-Read-and-Find-Out Science, Stage 1)* by Deborah Heiligman
- *Scholastic Discover More Reader Level 1: Busy Butterflies* by Gail Tuchman
- Life Cycle of a Butterfly worksheet

Attachments



Life Cycle of a
Butterfly



Draw the Life
Cycle of a
Butterfly



Color the Life
Cycle:
Butterfly

Lesson

Introduction *(20 minutes)*

- Draw a KWL chart on the board.
- Ask students what they already know about the life cycle of a butterfly. Fill in the "K" column.
- Ask students what they would like to learn about the life cycle of a butterfly and fill in the "W" column.
- Play [Butterfly, Butterfly!](#).
- Pick out key words from the song, such as butterfly, caterpillar, chrysalis, and egg. Include a picture and a simple definition for each word.

Explicit Instruction/Teacher Modeling *(30 minutes)*

- Show pictures of real eggs, caterpillars, chrysalises, and butterflies to your students.
- Ask students to identify each.
- Read *Busy Butterflies* or *From Caterpillar to Butterfly*.
- During the reading, make quick pauses to check for understanding about the concepts in the book. Model a think aloud about how to make connections between the book and their previous experiences in life and what they've seen in the lesson so far.
- Have the students share with the class about any connection they might have between the text and any real world events.

Guided Practice/Interactive Modeling *(20 minutes)*

- After the read aloud, model to the class how to retell important details from the book. Discuss with the class what information is really important to remember, and what other details are not needed in this lesson.

Independent Working Time *(10 minutes)*

- Pass out the Life Cycle of a Butterfly worksheet and have students complete it independently.

Extend

Differentiation

- **Enrichment:** Give students the Draw the Life Cycle of a Butterfly worksheet to complete during independent working time.
- **Support:** Give students the Color the Life Cycle: Butterfly worksheet to complete during independent working time.

Related Books and/or Media

Review

Assessment *(5 minutes)*

- Check the correctness of the students' worksheets.

Review and Closing *(10 minutes)*

- Go through the KWL chart on the board and check off things in the "W" column that the class achieved in learning today.
- Add items to the "L" column to show students what they learned today.
- Review the life stages of a butterfly as you do this.

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