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The Life Cycle of a Butterfly


## EduCraft

Hands-On Learning
Project Ideas - Cross Curricular Links • Activity Sheets

## Wooden Butterfly Magnets (Pk/12)

PLEASE READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE STARTING


YOUR KIT CONTAINS:

- Wooden Butterflies
- Magnetic Tape
- Acrylic Paint
- Brushes
you will need:
- Covered Work Surface
- Scissors
- Ruler

AGE GROUP: 8 and up PROJECT TIME: 30 minutes

## INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Cut magnetic tape strip into 1 " pieces.
2. Paint butterflies as desired. See examples of real butterfly colors on this page for ideas.
3. Peel backing on magnetic strip and apply to clothspin.


OBJECTIVE: To sequence and describe the stages of development of a butterfly
SUGGESTED TIME FRAME: 30 minutes
ADDITIONAL MATERIALS: Reproducible pictures, ADDITIONAL MATERIALS: Reproducible pictur a life cycle wheel, From Caterpillar to Butterfly
by Deborah Heiligman (ISBN 0-006-024262-7) by Deborah Heiligman (ISBN 0-006-024262-7)
See additional resources describing the life cycle of a butterfly in your newest S\&S Worldwide catalog.
PROCEDURE: Read and discuss From Caterpillar to Butterfly. Have the children color, cut out and glue the pictures from the attached worksheet in their appropriate sequence. Older children can write each stage of development under the appropriate picture, younger children can orally tell how a butterfly changes from egg to caterpillar to chrysalis to butterfly.

## SOCIAL STUDIES/MAP SKILLS

OBJECTIVE: To chart butterfly migration route on a map.
SUGGESTED TIME FRAME: 20 minutes.
ADDITIONAL MATERIALS: Reproducible map of North America, crayons.
PROCEDURE: Discuss butterfly migration showing the children, on a large classroom map, the various destinations of migrating butterflies Younger children can use a floor map or write the destinations on poster board, place them around the room and pretend they are butterflies, as they fly to each one. Discuss which direction they are flying. (North, South, East, etc.) Butterfly Express by Jane Belk Moncure (published, 1988 by The Child's World, Elgin, IL) is a nice book to read in connection with this activity.

## MUSIC/WRITTEN LANGUAGE

OBJECTIVE: To learn the sequence and stages of the butterfly's life cycle through song. SUGGESTED TIME FRAME: None required. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS: None required. PROCEDURE: Sing the following words to the tune of Skip to My Lou:

I'm an egg, hatch with me
I'm an egg, hatch with me
I'm an egg, hatch with me
What will I be, my darling?
In subsequent verses, substitute the words:
I'm a caterpillar, wiggle with me Etc.

I'm a chrysalis, sleep with me Etc.

I'm a butterfly, fly with me
Etc.
Have the children act out the various stages of development with their bodies, curling into a ball to represent the egg, wiggling as the caterpillar, standing very still with their arms stretched to
the ceiling, hands clasped for the chrysalis and flapping their arms like wings to fly.

## SCIENCE/WRITTEN LANGUAGE

OBJECTIVE: To observe the metamorphosis of a butterfly.
SUGGESSTED TIME FRAME: Ongoing over about 2 weeks time.
ADDITIONAL MATERIALS: Small aquarium with cover, caterpillars, fresh milkweed leaves, and journal for recording.
PROCEDURE: Provide Monarch Butterfly caterpillars for the children to observe (order the Butterfly Garden from S\&S, LR-156 or find them in nature on milkweed plants). Ask the children to write their daily observations in a class butterfly journal. Designate a butterfly reporter to read each day's entries to the rest of the class. Ask the children to make predictions about what they think will happen next. Graph predictions of how many days it will take to hatch.

OBJECTIVE: To create a butterfly that is symmetrical.
SUGGESTED TIME FRAME: 20 minutes.
ADDITIONAL MATERIALS: Tempera paint thinned ADDITIONAL MATERIALS: Tempera paint th with water so that it will drip, primary paint
brushes, butterfly tracers, pencils, scissors, white construction paper.
PROCEDURE: Discuss symmetry. When things are symmetrical they have the same shape or design on both sides of a centerline. Have the children find things around the room or in nature, which are symmetrical. Then have the children fold a piece of white construction paper in half vertically. They should trace half of the butterfly on the fold, then, keeping it folded, cut it out. Open it up. Is it symmetrical? Ask the children to keep their butterflies opened up and write their names on the back. Help them find the fold in the center of the butterfly and tell them that they will be dripping paint onto JUST ONE SIDE of the fold. Working in small groups, they will take turns dripping different colors of paint onto one half of their butterfly. Demonstrate the way to apply the paint by holding the paint laden brush a few inches above the paper and allowing the paint to DRIP onto the paper. You may need to shake the brush gently to speed the dripping process. Emphasize that the brushes should NOT be used to paint in the conventional way and encourage the children to use several different colors for the best effect. When the children have used 4 or 5 different colors, fold the butterfly gently together and smooth with you hand. Ask the children to say the "magic word" which describes how a caterpillar changes to a butterfly, METAMORPHOSIS, and open the butterfly to reveal the
symmetrical pattern created by the drip painting. Have the children check to see if the design is exactly the same (symmetrical) on each side of the centerline.

## MATH

OBJECTIVE: Addition and subtraction practice.
SUGGESTED TIME FRAME: 15 minutes.
ADDITIONAL MATERIALS: Unifix cubes, a set of dice for each team, one conventional die and one blank die, marked with a plus sign on 4 surfaces, a minus sign one two (use permanent marker).
PROCEDURE: Have each child choose a partner. Give team a set of dice and have them take turns rolling the dice and adding or subtracting unifix cubes as indicated by the dice to make their caterpillar longer or shorter. At the end of the game, discuss which caterpillars are longer, shorter, and equal. How many more cubes does one have than another does?

## COOKING

OBJECTIVE: To make butterfly cookies.
SUGGESTED TIME FRAME: 30 minutes.
ADDITIONAL MATERIALS: Slice and bake cookie dough, M\&M's, thin licorice whips, cookie sheet. PROCEDURE: Help each child slice one round slice from the roll of cookie dough. They will cut the slice in half and reposition the halves of the circle so that the curved edges are touching and the straight edges are on the outside, to resemble a butterfly. Using M\&M's, ask the children to decorate the butterfly's wings with polkadots. (Review Symmetry). Add 2 short pieces of licorice whip for antennae. Bake according to package directions and eat!


Butterfly Magnets
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