



### Caterpillars & Butterflies: Major Concepts



Image: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:2012-06-27\\_Aporia\\_crataegi\\_eggs\\_Malus\\_domestica.JPG](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:2012-06-27_Aporia_crataegi_eggs_Malus_domestica.JPG)

#### Objectives

- Explore the lifecycle of a caterpillar
- Learn about the eggs, caterpillars, chrysalis, and butterflies
- Discover that butterfly pollinate flowers
- Pretend to be a butterfly and learn about the parts of a butterfly

#### Compare and Contrast:

- What kinds of food do we eat to help us grow? What foods does The Very Hungry Caterpillar eat to grow? What type of food does a real-life caterpillar eat?
- How do caterpillars move their bodies? How do butterflies move?
- How do caterpillars and butterflies differ in appearance?

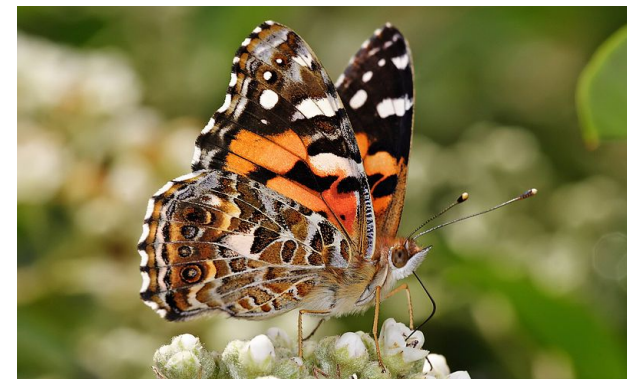


Image: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Australian\\_paint\\_lady\\_feeding.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Australian_paint_lady_feeding.jpg)



## Life Cycle

### Materials:

- 2 empty paper towel rolls
- Empty water bottle
- Masking or painters tape
- Sticks from outside
- 2 sheets of paper
- Crayons or markers
- Scissors
- Cup/glass/mug to for tracing
- Cotton ball

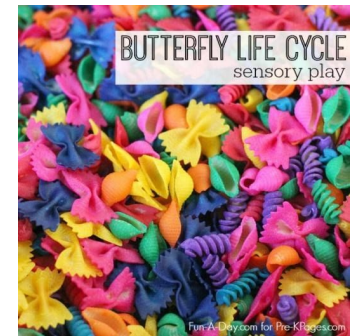


### Inspired by:

<https://www.pre-kpages.com/butterfly-life-cycle-sensory-bin/>

### Materials:

- **Eggs** - dry beans, lentils, or cotton balls
- **Caterpillar** - rotini pasta
- **Chrysalis** - shell pasta
- **Butterfly** - bowtie pasta



**Egg:** A cotton ball makes a perfect egg

**Caterpillar:** Trace the outside of a cup onto a piece of paper to make a circle. Repeat 6-8 times until you have enough circles for an entire caterpillar. Cut and decorate the circles. Tape the circles together, overlapping slightly, so they form a line. Cut thin strips of paper to make antenna and legs and tape to the head and body. Tape the finished caterpillar on a towel roll

**Chrysalis:** Wrap an empty water bottle with masking tape. Tape the water bottle to a stick or small branch

**Butterfly:** Draw the outline of a butterfly on a piece of paper. Add color to the wings using crayons or markers. Cut out the butterfly and tape it to the other empty paper towel roll.

### Dye the Pasta (optional):

- Place pasta in a plastic bag
- Add a few drops of food coloring and shake
- Put the dyed pasta on a paper towel to dry
- Use different colors for each type of pasta

### Discussion:

- Ask your child to scoop out an example of an egg, a caterpillar, a chrysalis, and a butterfly
- Have your child group like items together and talk about which life stage each pile represents
- Ask your child to describe how each item looks and feels. If you dyed the pasta, have your child tell you the color and talk about if it is dark or light
- Count the number of items in each pile and the number of piles



### The Very Hungry Caterpillar

#### Scavenger Hunt



Read *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle and see if you can find all the foods that are named in the book in your kitchen or home. Play, pretend, or pictures of food counts

#### What do Caterpillars Really Eat?

**Observe:** Monarch Caterpillar Eating Leaves

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5vA8jzTrl4Y>

**Puppet Video:** The Tiny Caterpillar on a Leaf

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=owqvHXJKDys>

**Learning Lab Collection:** Caterpillars

<http://learninglab.si.edu/q/ll-c/5x9ECxR3yRF8jngb>

#### Watch:

Eric Carle read *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eXHScpo\\_Vv8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eXHScpo_Vv8)

#### Caterpillar Food Trail

Cut out, print, or draw pictures of various foods. Tape these to a tabletop, fridge, or window, designing a food trail for your new caterpillar to eat through.

#### "Caterpillar"

by Dr. Jean

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WrlxnH8LXNQ>

#### "Caterpillar's Story"

by Dr. Jean

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5dQecbHGMSs>

#### Ten Little Caterpillars

by Bill Martin Jr.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ah\\_hHzPG\\_gRI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ah_hHzPG_gRI)

#### Color Sorting Caterpillar

Create the body of the caterpillar with different colored circles and sort various objects (buttons, bottle caps, paper scraps) that match those colors.

<https://parentingchaos.com/the-very-hungry-caterpillar-color-sorting-activity/>

#### Caterpillar Craft/Activity

Make your own caterpillar from an egg carton

<https://teaching2and3yearolds.com/egg-carton-caterpillar-craft-for-toddlers-and-preschoolers>

Other ideas: sock or finger puppets, empty water bottle, Play-Doh...use paint, glue, paper, and more to decorate!





## Butterfly Dramatic Play

### Becoming a Butterfly

Wrap your child in a blanket so they can be a butterfly breaking out of its chrysalis. Then use the blanket as a new set of wings! Take a rubber band, hair tie, or small piece of string to secure the blanket around your child's wrists.



#### Materials:

- **Chrysalis** - blanket or athletic wrapping tape
- **Wings** - blanket with rubber bands

### Butterfly Pollinators

Butterflies have to use their long, skinny proboscis (kind of like a tongue) to reach the nectar at the bottom of the flower. As they fly from flower to flower they spread the pollen allowing the flowers to turn to seeds.



#### Materials:

- **Proboscis** - straws or musical party blower
- **Flower** - paper, tape, and scissors
- **Pollen** - yellow chalk dust or pom-poms

#### Virtual tour of Natural History's Butterfly Pavilion

[https://naturalhistory2.si.edu/vt3/  
NMNH/z\\_tour-022.html](https://naturalhistory2.si.edu/vt3/NMNH/z_tour-022.html)

#### Information on Butterflies in Natural History's Pavilion

[https://naturalhistory.si.edu/sites/default/files/media/file/butterflies-com-  
monly-seen-pavilion.pdf](https://naturalhistory.si.edu/sites/default/files/media/file/butterflies-com-monly-seen-pavilion.pdf)

#### Sesame Street: "Elmo's Butterfly Friend"

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?  
v=CS1q3S1y6nE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CS1q3S1y6nE)