
1st Grade Activity: Butterfly Life Cycle

Some animals, such as the butterfly, go through a transformation in their life cycle. Some animal babies do not look like the adults.
(NGSS Disciplinary Core Ideas 1.LS3.A Inheritance of Traits)

Pre-Activity Questions

- What are some animal babies that look similar to their parents? What about some that look different?
- What are the different stages of human life?
- Can you name the different stages of life for a butterfly?

Activity

- A butterfly goes through metamorphosis during its life. Metamorphosis means the transformation between an immature form to an adult form. All insects go through a metamorphosis
- All insects start out in an **EGG**. Once the egg hatches, the immature, or **LARVA** form of the insect emerges. In butterflies, we call this stage the caterpillar! To go through metamorphosis, the larva becomes a **PUPA**. This is when the caterpillar becomes a chrysalis. Once the metamorphosis is complete, the **ADULT** form emerges. The butterfly is out!

Illustrate a butterfly's life cycle with food!

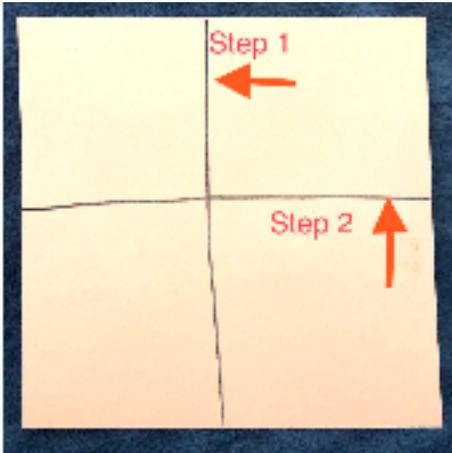
Materials

- 1-3 dry beans or rice grains
- 1 elbow pasta, or other straight dry pasta
- 1 pasta shell
- 1 farfalle pasta, or other bow-shaped dry pasta
- Markers
- Elmer's glue
- 1 piece of paper or paper plate

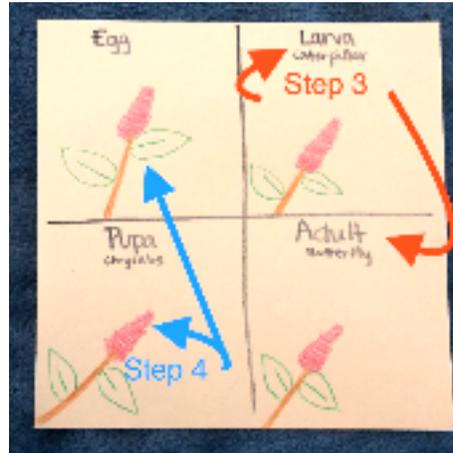
Steps

1. Use your **marker** to draw a line down the middle of your **paper** or **plate** from top to bottom.
2. Use your marker to draw a line across the middle of your paper or plate from one side to the other.
3. Label the 4 different parts of your paper or plate: EGG, LARVA (caterpillar), PUPA (chrysalis), ADULT (butterfly)
4. Use your markers to decorate different parts of your paper with a plant.

5. Use **Elmer's glue** to glue the pasta into the correct parts of your paper
 - a. Rice or beans on the EGG section
 - b. Elbow pasta on the LARVA section
 - c. Shell pasta on the PUPA section
 - d. Farfalle (bow-shaped) pasta on the ADULT section
6. Let dry



Steps 1 and 2: use a marker to divide the paper in half both ways



Steps 3 and 4: Label each quarter, and draw in a plant



Step 5 and 6: Glue on the pasta and let it dry

Post-Activity Questions and Resources

- Challenge: Go out into your backyard or local park and see what stages of the butterfly's life cycle you can find.
- Can you identify the different stages of a butterfly's life cycle in this [video](#)?
- Many adult butterflies are happy eating many different kinds of flowers, but most caterpillars, like the monarch caterpillar, need a specific host plant to feed on when they're young. What can you do to help monarchs and other butterflies survive? [Butterfly Gardening in the Bay Area](#).