

Reception Class - Topic

MINIBEASTS

Week 2 - The lifecycle of a butterfly

This week we are going to look at the butterfly and what happens to it during it's life. It is an amazing story.... The butterfly starts life as an **egg**, hatches into a **caterpillar**, then forms a **chrysalis**, before finally emerging as a **butterfly**.

Let's look at a story you might already know - The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle. Click on the link to hear Eric Carle read his story:

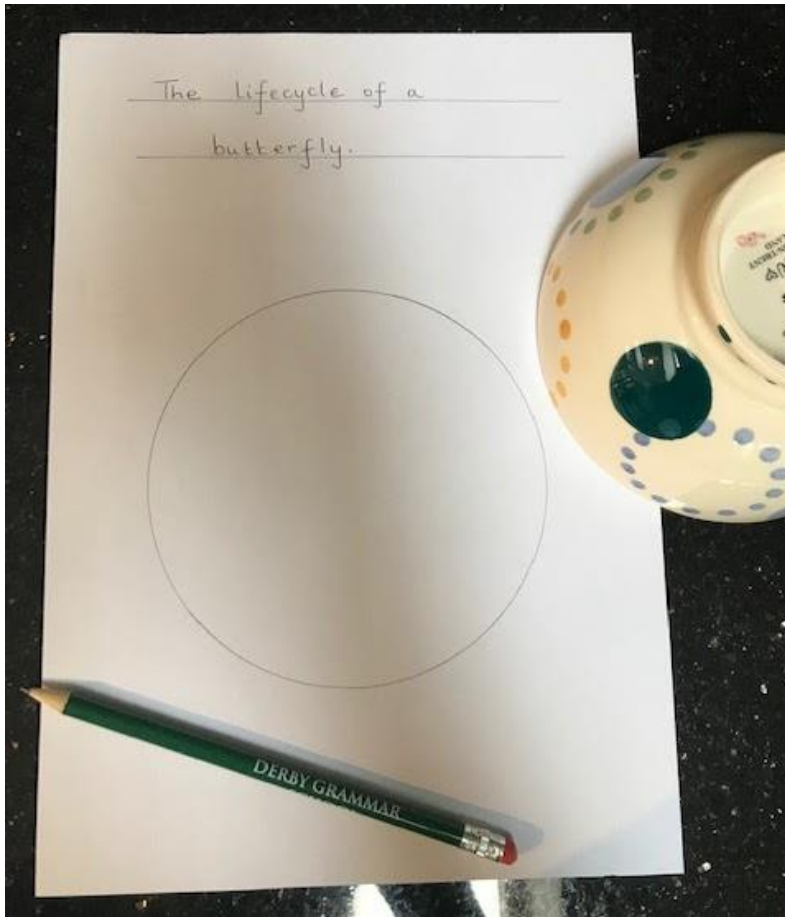
[Eric Carle reads The Very Hungry Caterpillar](#)

In this story Eric Carle says that the caterpillar forms a **cocoon**, this is a different word for a chrysalis.

Now we are going to make a picture to show the lifecycle of a butterfly. I would like to go to the page in your blue workbook where you have written today's date.

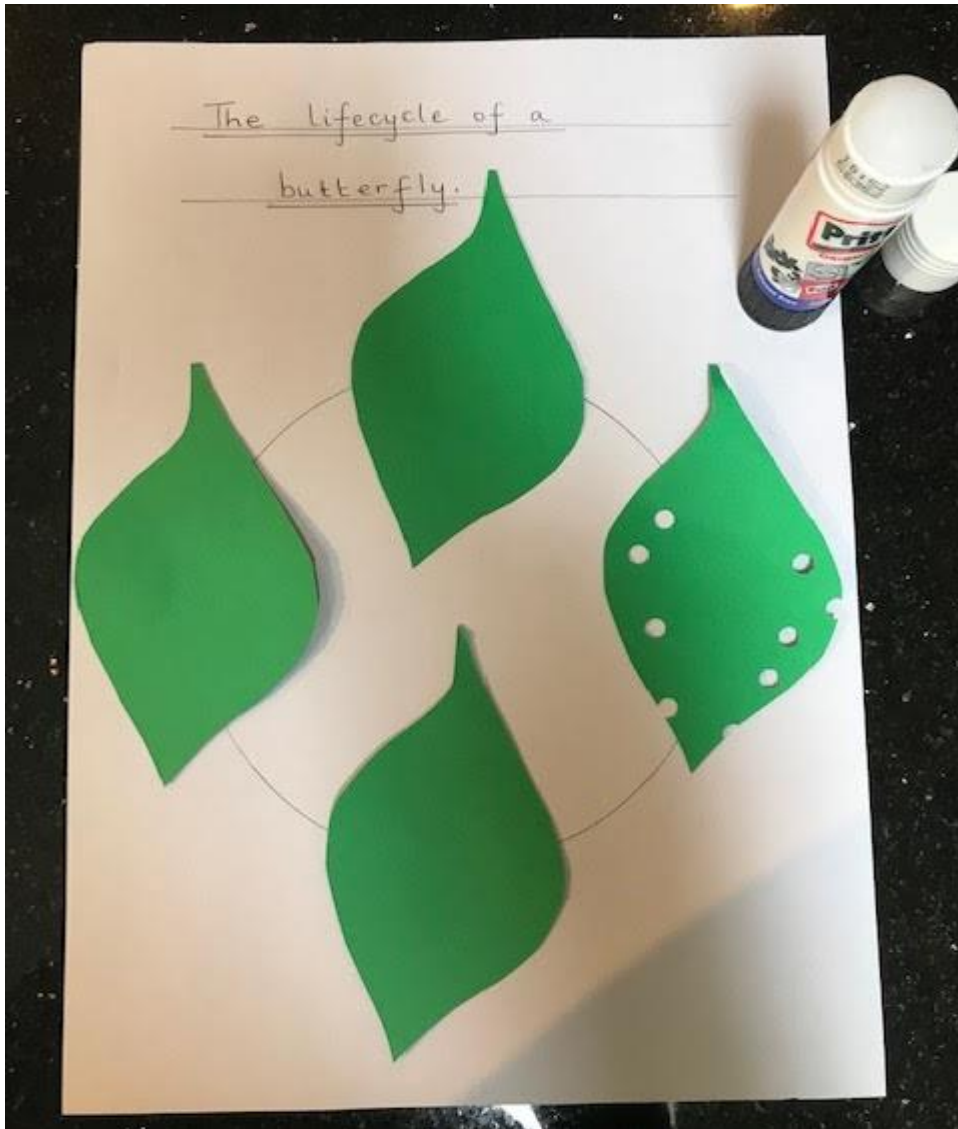
Draw 2 pencil lines at the top of the page (just below the date) and write the title - The lifecycle of a butterfly.

Find a small bowl or plate (one that is smaller than your piece of paper) and place it in the middle of your page and draw around it using a pencil.



Now I would like you to find a piece of green paper or card. If you don't have any it doesn't matter, use white paper. Cut out 4 leaves. The leaves can be pointy, smooth or curvy - you choose. If you are using white paper then colour your leaves green. I would like you to make small holes in one leaf - can you guess why? You could do this using a hole punch or just cut a few holes out of the edge of your leaf using scissors. Don't forget our scissor safety rules.

I would like you to glue your leaves onto the pencil circle. Put 1 leaf at the top in the 12 o'clock position, put the leaf with holes on it in the 3 o'clock position, put a leaf at the bottom in the 6 o'clock position and the last one in the 9 o'clock position. It should look like this:



Next we are going to think about the different stages of a butterfly's life. We could say it starts as an **egg**. Can you find something that looks like eggs? They are small and white. You could use rice grains, pearl barley or the white holes from a hole punch. Have a look around the house, when you have found something suitable, use glue to stick a few onto the leaf at the top.

Who do you think has eaten the holes in the next leaf? Yes, you're correct, it's the caterpillar! Can you find something that looks like tiny caterpillars - perhaps pieces of wool, coloured string or small pieces of coloured pipe cleaner. Use glue to stick your caterpillars onto the holey leaf.

What is the next stage? After eating lots and lots (not necessarily cakes and lollipops!) the caterpillar turns into a chrysalis and hangs from a leaf. You now need

to make a chrysalis - you could use a piece of pasta (penne or fusilli), a screwed up piece of brown tissue paper or cut out a cone shape from a piece of brown cardboard. Have a go and glue your chrysalis on the leaf at the bottom of the circle, in the 6 o'clock position.

On the last leaf you need a beautiful butterfly. Ask Mummy or Daddy to cut out a butterfly shape, not too big it needs to sit on the leaf. Now decorate your butterfly using coloured pencils, glitter, sequins, whatever you like but make sure it is BEAUTIFUL! When you have finished decorating your butterfly and it is dry, glue it to the last leaf.



You have now made a butterfly lifecycle! Well done. To show that it is a cycle and that the process goes round and round put arrows on your picture. Do this by

drawing over the lines you draw in pencil back at the start and put an arrow head on each line to show which ways the cycle goes. Look at the photo below to help you.



Finally, please can you label your picture. Write the following words next to the correct leaf - **egg, caterpillar, chrysalis, butterfly.**

The lifecycle of a
butterfly.



A super piece of work, well done.

Enrichment

If you would like an activity to do on Friday, I have attached a worksheet - Caterpillar Counting. Print off the sheet and have a go. You could either dip your thumb in paint and use it to print the number of body segments each caterpillar needs or you could draw circles and colour them in.