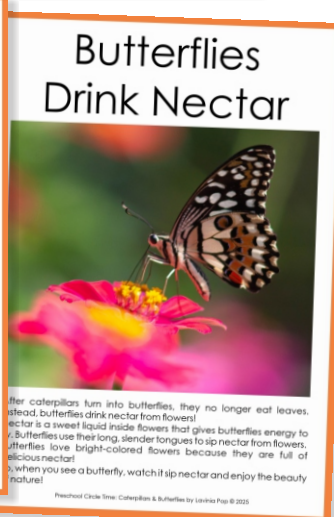
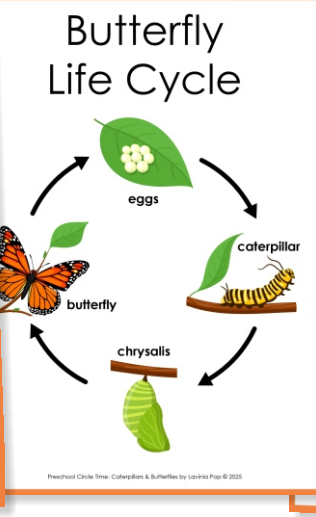
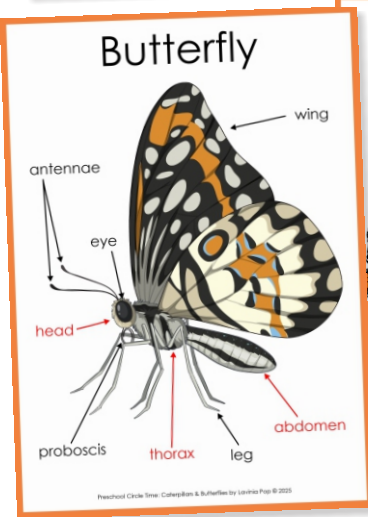
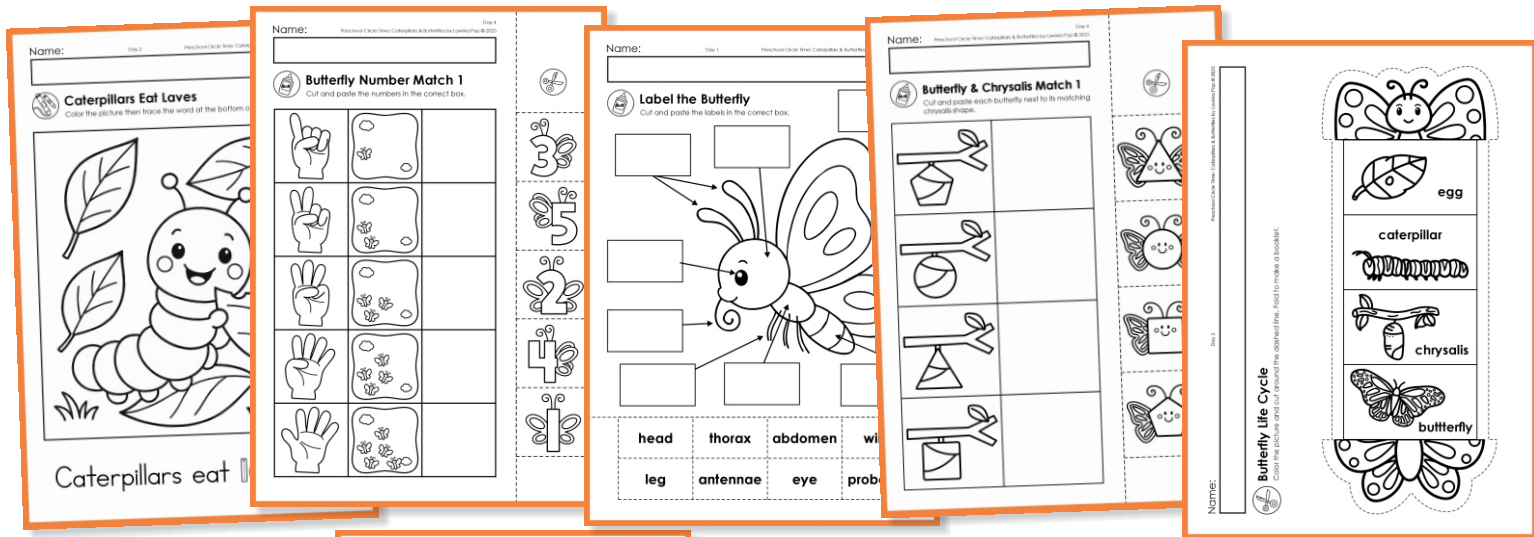


caterpillars & butterflies

CIRCLE TIME

5
LESSONS

circle time plans | songs | posters | activities | printables

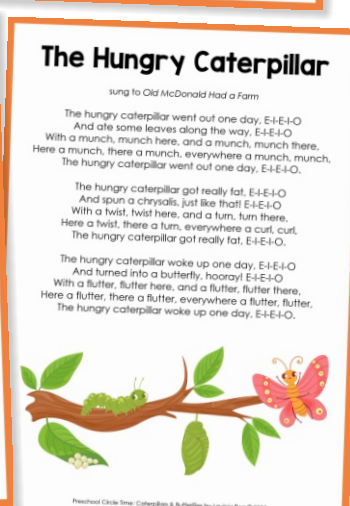
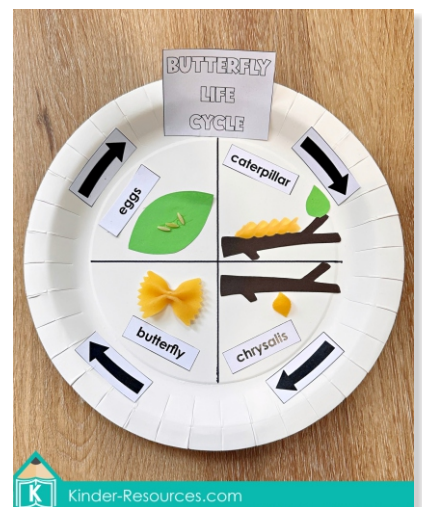
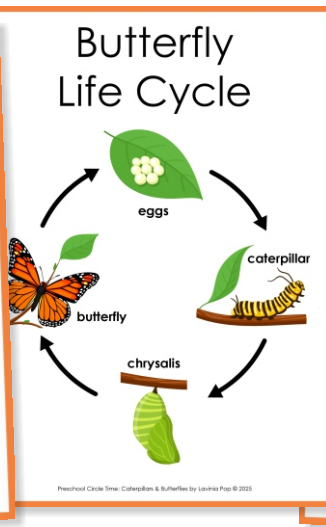
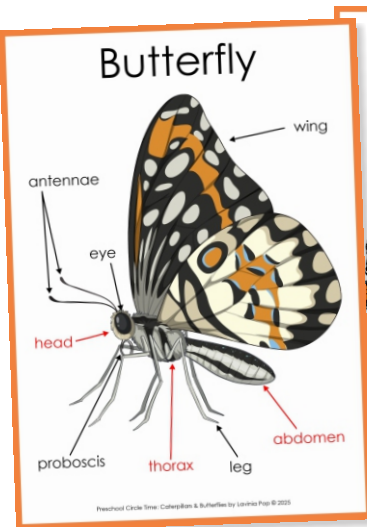
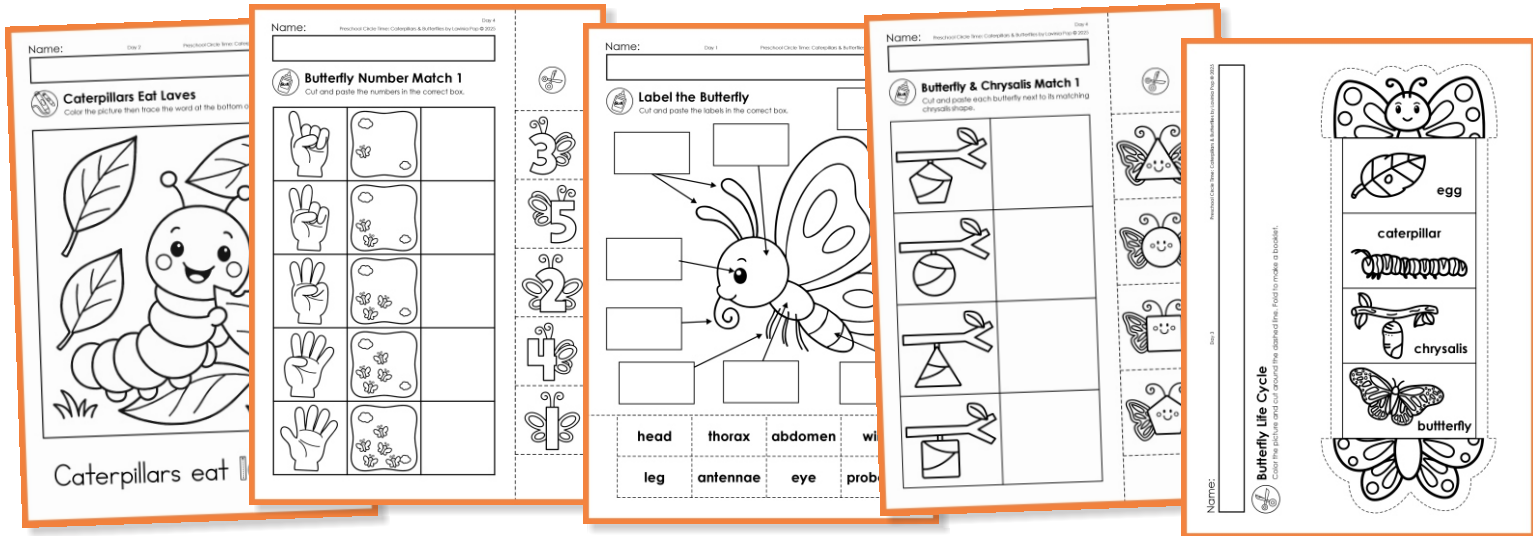


Lavinia Pop

Caterpillars & Butterflies

PRESCHOOL CIRCLE TIME

5 lesson plans | songs | posters | activities | printables



Lavinia Pop

Thank you for downloading this product; I hope you will enjoy using it and that it will be a valuable resource for you! I value your feedback, so please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns whatsoever as I will endeavour to address them. And if you like what I've done, please let me know by leaving feedback at my online store :)

Lavinia

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ILLUSTRATIONS Kari Bolt, Erin Colleen Design, Little Red, Whimsy Clips, PartyHead Graphics, Ramona Majdis, Zip-a-Dee-doo-dah-Designs, Bunny on a Cloud, Krista Wallden - Creative Clips, Creating4 the Classroom, Rainbow Sprinkle Studio - Sasha Mitten, First Class Clipart, ClipArtisan, Muggy Studio

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PRINTING TIP This resource has been designed for printing on A4-sized paper. If you are printing on a different size, select "shrink to printable area" or "print to fit page" (or a similar option) in order for the contents of this unit to print correctly.

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Introduction

The Caterpillars & Butterflies Preschool Circle Time Plan is designed to immerse young learners in the fascinating world of butterflies, from the tiny caterpillar to the magnificent butterfly. Over the course of five days, children will engage in fun, hands-on activities that spark curiosity and support early learning concepts about the life cycle and metamorphosis of butterflies.

Each day features an exciting read-aloud paired with an activity that helps children understand the butterfly life cycle, from the egg stage to the fully developed butterfly. Through interactive crafts, songs, and discussions, children will explore the changes that take place in each stage of a butterfly's life, while fostering creativity, critical thinking, and an appreciation for nature's wonders.

Whether pretending to be butterflies on a migration journey, creating butterfly crafts, or watching a butterfly transform in a science experiment, this plan offers an engaging, interactive experience that will inspire young learners to appreciate the beauty of the natural world and the magical process of metamorphosis.

What's Included:

1. Detailed Circle Time plans

Each day of the week is planned with a structured circle time agenda that includes:

- *Introduction:* A brief and captivating introduction to the daily theme, setting the stage for the day's activities.
- *Song:* A fun and educational song related to the daily theme, designed to engage children and reinforce learning through music and movement.
- *Read aloud and discussion:* A carefully selected picture book paired with thought-provoking discussion questions to enhance comprehension and encourage interaction.
- *Activities:* Creative and hands-on activities that complement the day's theme, fostering gross and fine motor skills, creativity, and critical thinking.

2. Posters and props

Enhance Circle Time with visual and tactile aids:

- *Posters:* Vibrant posters featuring the lyrics and illustrations for each daily song, making it easy for children to follow along and participate. The product also includes non-fiction posters, providing educational content alongside the fun.
- *Props:* Printable props related to each song and theme help bring the songs and stories to life and engage children in interactive play.

3. Printables for all activities:

Not all days include activities that require printables. However, optional printables are included for each day if you would like to use them. They include:

- Group activity printables
- Worksheets
- Craft templates

Why You'll Love This Resource:

- **Comprehensive and convenient learning:** A complete week of themed learning activities and resources in one packet.
- **Easy to use:** Detailed plans, printables, and props make it straightforward to create a dynamic and engaging circle time experience.
- **Educational and entertaining:** Each component is designed to be both educational and fun, keeping children excited and involved.

Happy Teaching :)

Caterpillars & Butterflies

| | Objective | Read Aloud | Activity |
|--------------|---|---|---|
| Day 1 | Parts of a Butterfly Children will identify the different parts of a butterfly and understand the function of each part. | Book: "How To Be A Butterfly" by Laura Knowles and Catell Ronca Discussion: Parts of a butterfly and how each part helps the butterfly fly, sense its surroundings, and move. | Mirror Image Butterfly Art Children paint one side of a butterfly template, then fold the paper to reveal a symmetrical design on both wings. Materials: Butterfly template, paint, paintbrushes. |
| Day 2 | What Caterpillars and Butterflies Eat Children will understand what caterpillars and butterflies eat and how their eating habits support their growth and survival. | Book: "Waiting For Wings" By Lois Elhert Discussion: Food that caterpillars and butterflies eat (leaves and nectar), and how their eating habits help them grow and survive. | Feed the Caterpillar Game Children match food cards to the caterpillar's mouth, counting aloud as they feed the caterpillar the correct number of food items. Materials: Feed the Caterpillar printable |
| Day 3 | Life Cycle of a Butterfly Children will understand the four stages of a butterfly's life cycle and how the caterpillar changes into a butterfly through metamorphosis. | Book: "Caterpillar to Butterfly" by Melissa Stewart Discussion: Four stages of a butterfly's life cycle (egg, caterpillar, chrysalis, and butterfly) and how each stage contributes to the transformation of a caterpillar into a butterfly. | Butterfly Life Cycle Craft Children cut out and glue items onto a paper plate, representing each stage of the butterfly life cycle. Materials: Printable, glue, scissors, pasta (rotini, shell, and bow tie, risoni). |
| Day 4 | Types of Butterflies Children will identify and describe different types of butterflies and their unique colors and patterns, and understand how these features help butterflies in nature. | Book: "Butterfly Colors and Counting" by Jerry Pallotta Discussion: Different types of butterflies, such as Monarchs, Swallowtails, and Painted Ladies, and how their colors and patterns help them survive in nature. | Matching Butterfly Halves Children match butterfly halves on the board, reinforcing symmetry. Materials: Butterfly matching printable |
| Day 5 | Butterfly Migration Children will understand the concept of butterfly migration, why butterflies migrate, and how they navigate long distances to find food and warmth. | Book: "Señorita Mariposa" by Ben Gundersheimer Discussion: Migration of butterflies. Monarchs travel long distances to find food and warmth, and how they navigate during migration. | Butterfly Migration Play Children pretend to be Monarch butterflies, flying from one flower station to another while using straws to "drink nectar." Materials: Cardboard tubes, paint, paintbrushes, straws. |

Caterpillars & Butterflies

Day 3: Life Cycle of a Butterfly

Children will understand the four stages of a butterfly's life cycle and how the caterpillar changes into a butterfly through metamorphosis.

Introduction

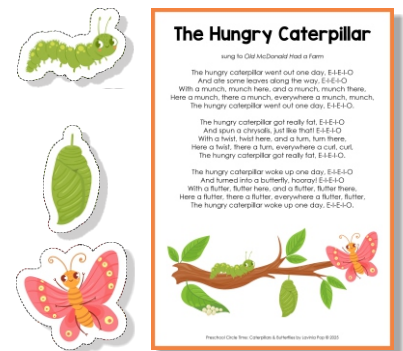
Ask, "What happens to a caterpillar before it becomes a butterfly?" Explain that today we'll be learning about the life cycle of a butterfly. A butterfly's life starts as an egg, then becomes a caterpillar, next it forms a chrysalis (or cocoon), and finally, it emerges as a butterfly. We will explore each stage in detail and learn how each one is important.

Song

"The Hungry Caterpillar" (Tune: "Old MacDonald Had a Farm")

Props: caterpillar, chrysalis, butterfly

Actions: Verse 1: Use one finger to crawl along your arm. Mimic chewing with your mouth. **Verse 2:** Use both hands to make a big round shape in front of your stomach. Wrap your arms around your body. **Verse 3:** Put your hands on your face and "wake up" by stretching and yawning. Flutter your fingers gently up and down like butterfly wings.



Read Aloud & Discussion

Book: "Caterpillar to Butterfly" by Melissa Stewart

Before Reading: "Do you know what happens when a caterpillar becomes a butterfly? How does the caterpillar change?" Explain that this book will show the stages of a butterfly's life cycle.

After Reading: "What are the four stages of a butterfly's life cycle? How does the caterpillar change as it grows into a butterfly?" Discuss the four stages: egg, caterpillar, chrysalis, and butterfly. Review how the caterpillar transforms into a butterfly and what happens in each stage.



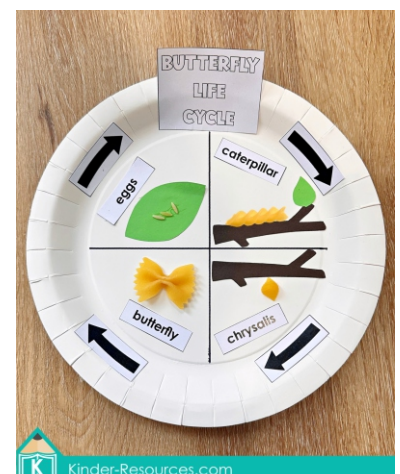
Activity

Butterfly Life Cycle Craft

Materials: Printable with title, labels for each stage, arrows, branches, and leaves, white paper plate sectioned into quarters, glue, scissors, pasta (rotini, shell, and bow tie, risoni).

Activity: Cut out the printable items and glue them onto the pre-sectioned paper plate. Label each section and add the following: for "Eggs," glue a green leaf and risoni; for "Caterpillar," glue a brown branch and rotini pasta; for "Chrysalis," glue a brown branch and shell pasta; for "Butterfly," glue bow tie pasta. Add arrows around the plate to show the life cycle flow.

Extension: While crafting, discuss the butterfly life cycle stages, prompting questions like, "How does the caterpillar change into a butterfly?" to promote understanding.



Caterpillars & Butterflies

Circle Time Song Posters and Props

This section includes all song posters and props.

- The Hungry Caterpillar
 - complete song poster
 - verse song poster
 - caterpillar
 - chrysalis
 - butterfly



1 The Hungry Caterpillar
Sung to Old MacDonald Had a Farm

The hungry caterpillar went out one day, E-I-E-I-O
And ate some leaves along the way, E-I-E-I-O

With a munch, munch here,
And a munch, munch there,
Here a munch, there a munch,
Everywhere a munch, munch,
The hungry caterpillar went out one day, E-I-E-I-O.

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2 The Hungry Caterpillar
Sung to Old MacDonald Had a Farm

The hungry caterpillar got really fat, E-I-E-I-O
And spun a chrysalis, just like that! E-I-E-I-O

With a twist, twist here,
And a turn, turn there,
Here a twist, there a turn,
Everywhere a curl, curl,
The hungry caterpillar went out one day, E-I-E-I-O.

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3 The Hungry Caterpillar
Sung to Old MacDonald Had a Farm

The hungry caterpillar woke up one day, E-I-E-I-O
And turned into a butterfly, hooray! E-I-E-I-O

With a flutter, flutter here,
And a flutter, flutter there,
Here a flutter, there a flutter,
Everywhere a flutter, flutter,
The hungry caterpillar woke up one day, E-I-E-I-O.

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The Hungry Caterpillar
Sung to Old MacDonald Had a Farm

The hungry caterpillar went out one day, E-I-E-I-O
And ate some leaves along the way, E-I-E-I-O
With a munch, munch here, and a munch, munch there,
Here a munch, there a munch, everywhere a munch, munch,
The hungry caterpillar went out one day, E-I-E-I-O.

The hungry caterpillar got really fat, E-I-E-I-O
And spun a chrysalis, just like that! E-I-E-I-O
With a twist, twist here, and a turn, turn there,
Here a twist, there a turn, everywhere a curl, curl,
The hungry caterpillar got really fat, E-I-E-I-O.

The hungry caterpillar woke up one day, E-I-E-I-O
And turned into a butterfly, hooray! E-I-E-I-O
With a flutter, flutter here, and a flutter, flutter there,
Here a flutter, there a flutter, everywhere a flutter, flutter,
The hungry caterpillar woke up one day, E-I-E-I-O.

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The Hungry Caterpillar

sung to Old McDonald Had a Farm

The hungry caterpillar went out one day, E-I-E-I-O
And ate some leaves along the way, E-I-E-I-O
With a munch, munch here, and a munch, munch there,
Here a munch, there a munch, everywhere a munch, munch,
The hungry caterpillar went out one day, E-I-E-I-O.

The hungry caterpillar got really fat, E-I-E-I-O
And spun a chrysalis, just like that! E-I-E-I-O
With a twist, twist here, and a turn, turn there,
Here a twist, there a turn, everywhere a curl, curl,
The hungry caterpillar got really fat, E-I-E-I-O.

The hungry caterpillar woke up one day, E-I-E-I-O
And turned into a butterfly, hooray! E-I-E-I-O
With a flutter, flutter here, and a flutter, flutter there,
Here a flutter, there a flutter, everywhere a flutter, flutter,
The hungry caterpillar woke up one day, E-I-E-I-O.



Circle Time Props

Print, laminate and cut out. If using on a felt board, attach velcro to the back of each piece. If using on a white board, attach magnetic strips to the back of each piece.

Print multiple copies and attach to craft sticks for children to use (optional).

Actions:

Verse 1:

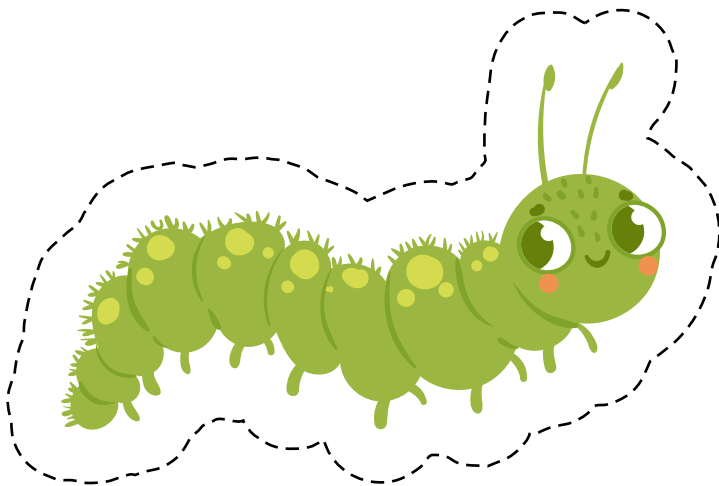
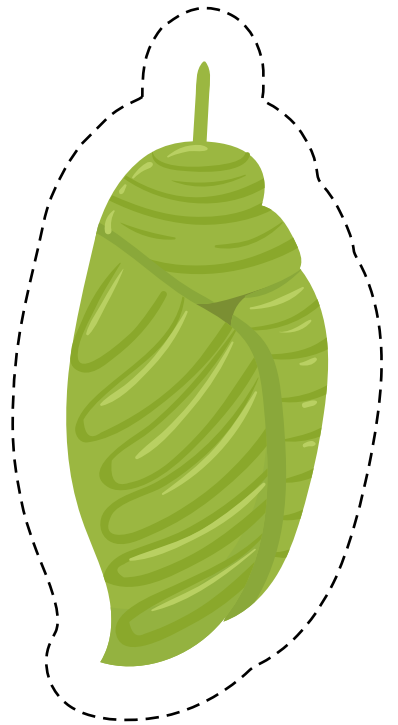
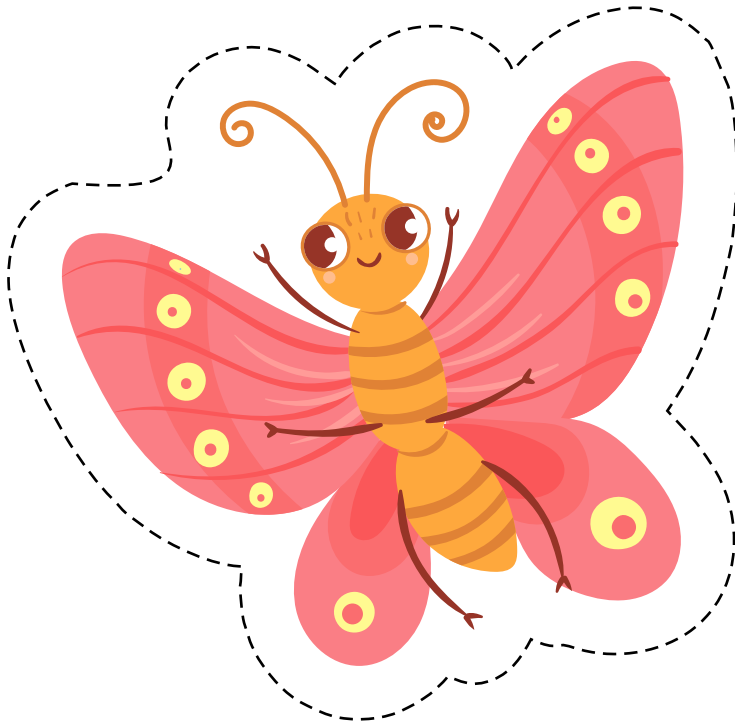
- Use one finger to crawl along your arm.
- Mimic chewing with your mouth.

Verse 2:

- Use both hands to make a big round shape in front of your stomach.
- Wrap your arms around your body as if you are wrapping yourself into a chrysalis.

Verse 3:

- Put your hands on your face and "wake up" by stretching and yawning.
- Flutter your fingers gently up and down like butterfly wings.



Caterpillars & Butterflies

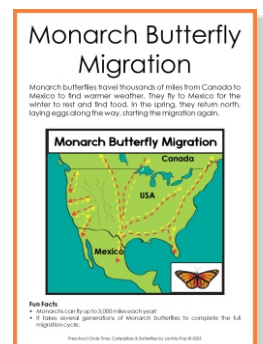
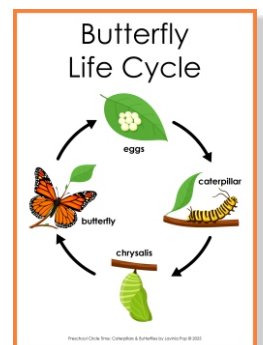
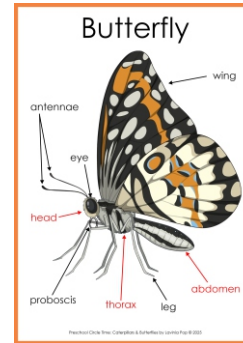
Classroom Posters

This section includes posters you might like to display in your classroom.

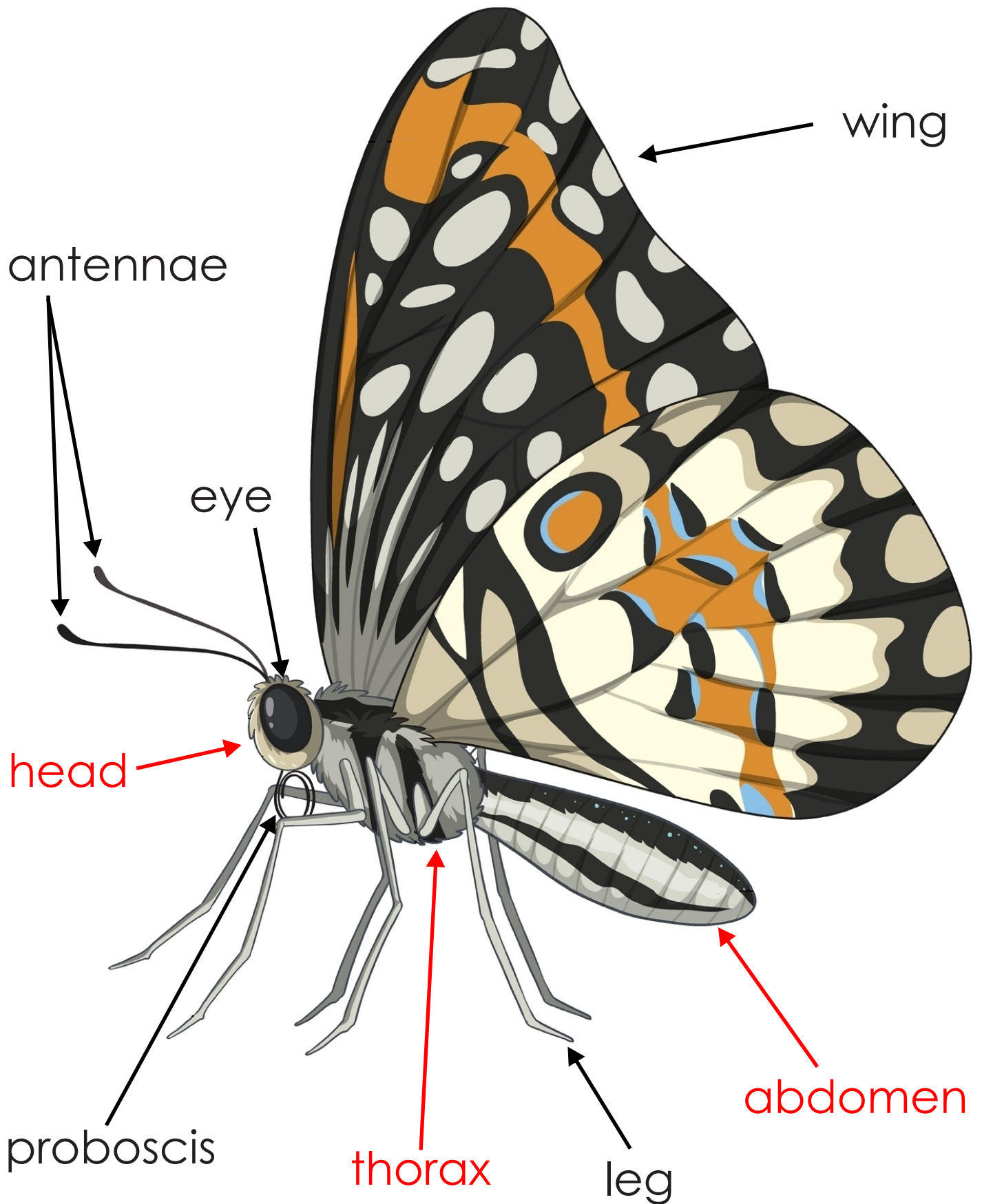
- Butterfly (parts of a butterfly with labels)
- Wing Symmetry
- Caterpillars Eat Leaves
- Butterflies Drink Nectar
- Butterfly Life Cycle

Non-fiction flower posters:

1. Monarch Butterfly
 2. Painted Lady Butterfly
 3. Swallowtail Butterfly
 4. Glasswing Butterfly
 5. Blue Tiger Butterfly
 6. Zebra Swallowtail Butterfly
 7. Purple Emperor Butterfly
 8. Admiral Butterfly
 9. Mourning Cloak Butterfly
 10. Cabbage White Butterfly
 11. Blue Morpho Butterfly
 12. Peacock Butterfly
 13. Common Brown Butterfly
 14. Leaf Butterfly
- Monarch Butterfly Migration



Butterfly

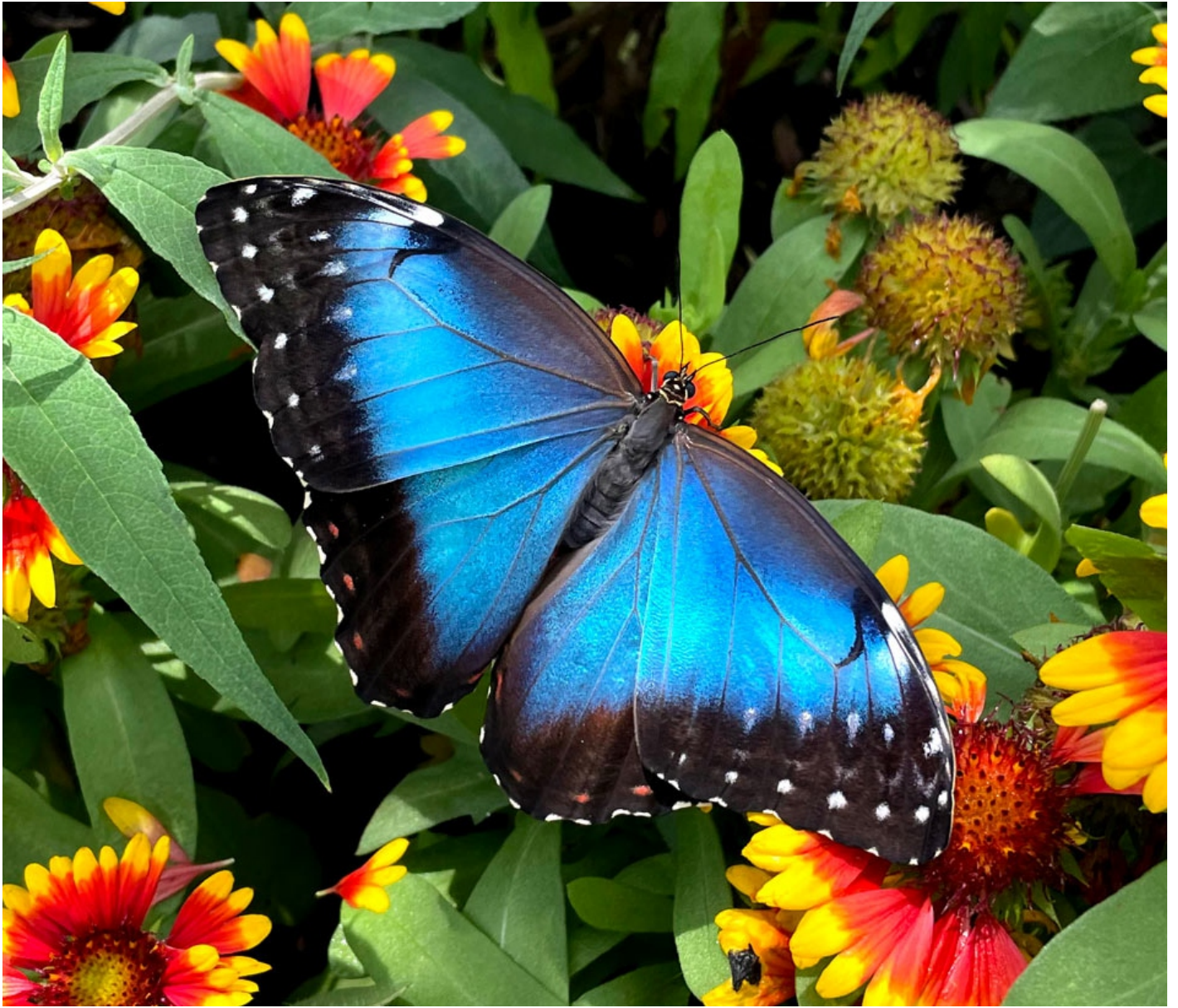




Monarch Butterfly

The Monarch Butterfly is one of the most recognizable butterflies in the world. It has beautiful orange and black wings with white spots. Monarchs are famous for their long migration from North America to Mexico, where they spend the winter.

- Wingspan: 3.5 – 4 inches
- Habitat: Fields, meadows, and gardens
- Food: Nectar from flowers



Blue Morpho Butterfly

The Blue Morpho Butterfly is one of the most stunning butterflies in the world! Its iridescent blue wings shimmer in the sunlight, making it a mesmerizing sight in the tropical forests of Central and South America. The bright blue is due to the microscopic scales on its wings, which reflect light in a dazzling way.

- Wingspan: 4–5 inches
- Habitat: Tropical forests of Central and South America
- Food: Nectar from flowers and rotting fruit



Leaf Butterfly

The Leaf Butterfly is a master of disguise. When its wings are closed, they look just like a dead leaf, making it almost impossible to spot in its natural habitat. This clever camouflage protects the butterfly from predators.

- Wingspan: 3–4 inches
- Habitat: Tropical forests of Southeast Asia
- Food: Nectar from flowers

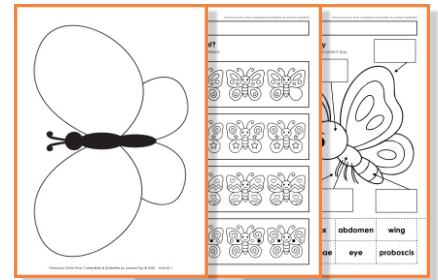
Caterpillars & Butterflies

Activities & Worksheets

This section includes all the necessary lesson printables, along with some additional activities and worksheets. You can use these pages as outlined in the lesson plan or on different days, depending on your needs.

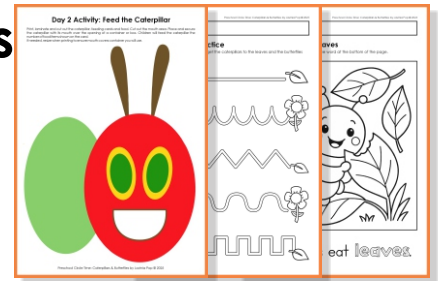
Day 1: Parts of a Butterfly

- **Lesson Activity:** Butterfly Wing Painting
- *Additional Activity:* What is Different?
- *Additional Activity:* Label the Butterfly



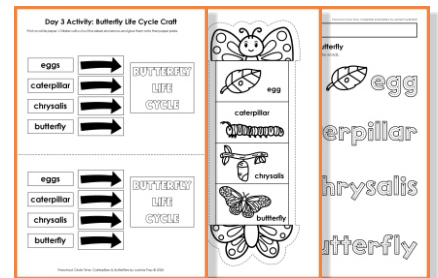
Day 2: What Caterpillars and Butterflies Eat

- **Lesson Activity:** Feed the Caterpillar
- *Additional Activity:* Pre-Writing Practice
- *Additional Activity:* What Caterpillar | Butterflies Eat (x2)



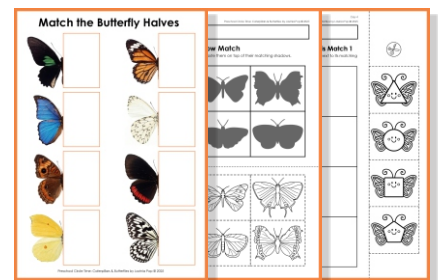
Day 3: Life Cycle of a Butterfly

- **Lesson Activity:** Butterfly Life Cycle Craft
- *Additional Activity:* Butterfly Life Cycle Activity
- *Additional Activity:* Butterfly Life Cycle Word Training



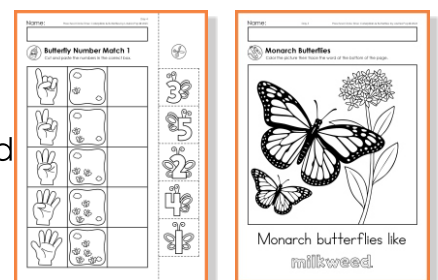
Day 4: Types of Butterflies

- **Lesson Activity:** Match the Butterfly Halves
- *Additional Activity:* Butterfly Shadow Match
- *Additional Activity:* Butterfly and Chrysalis Match (x2)



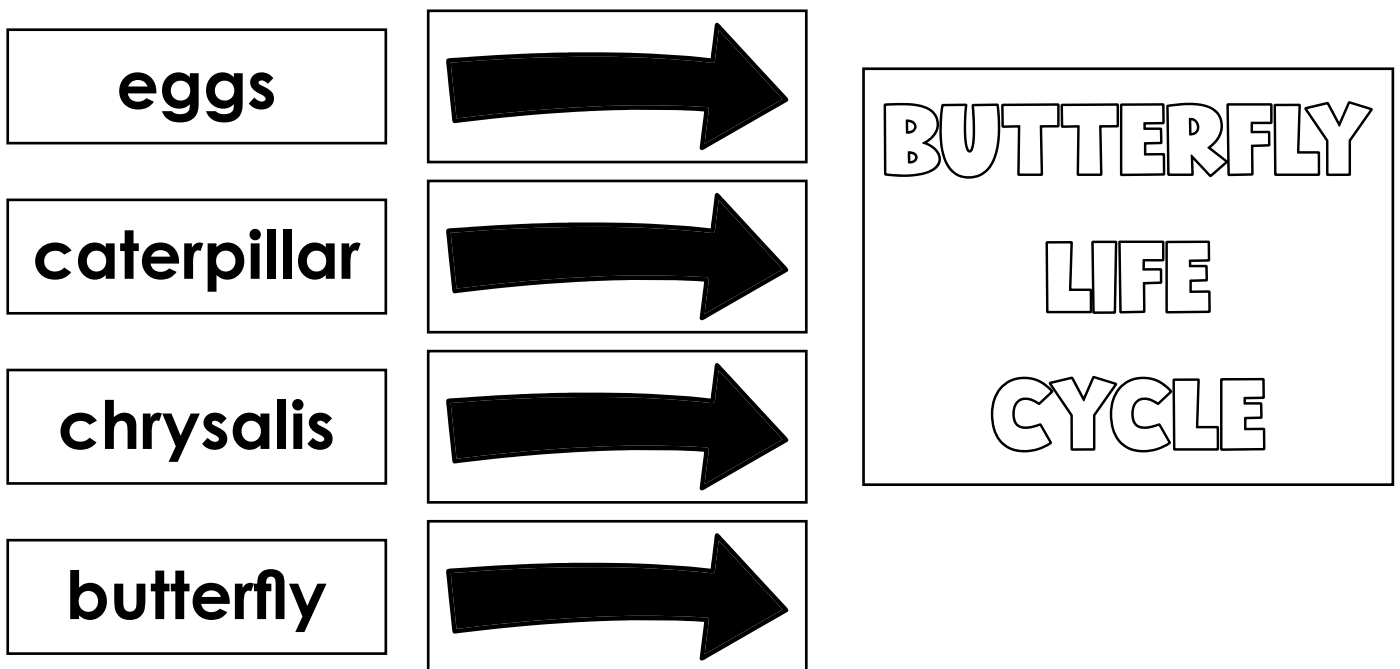
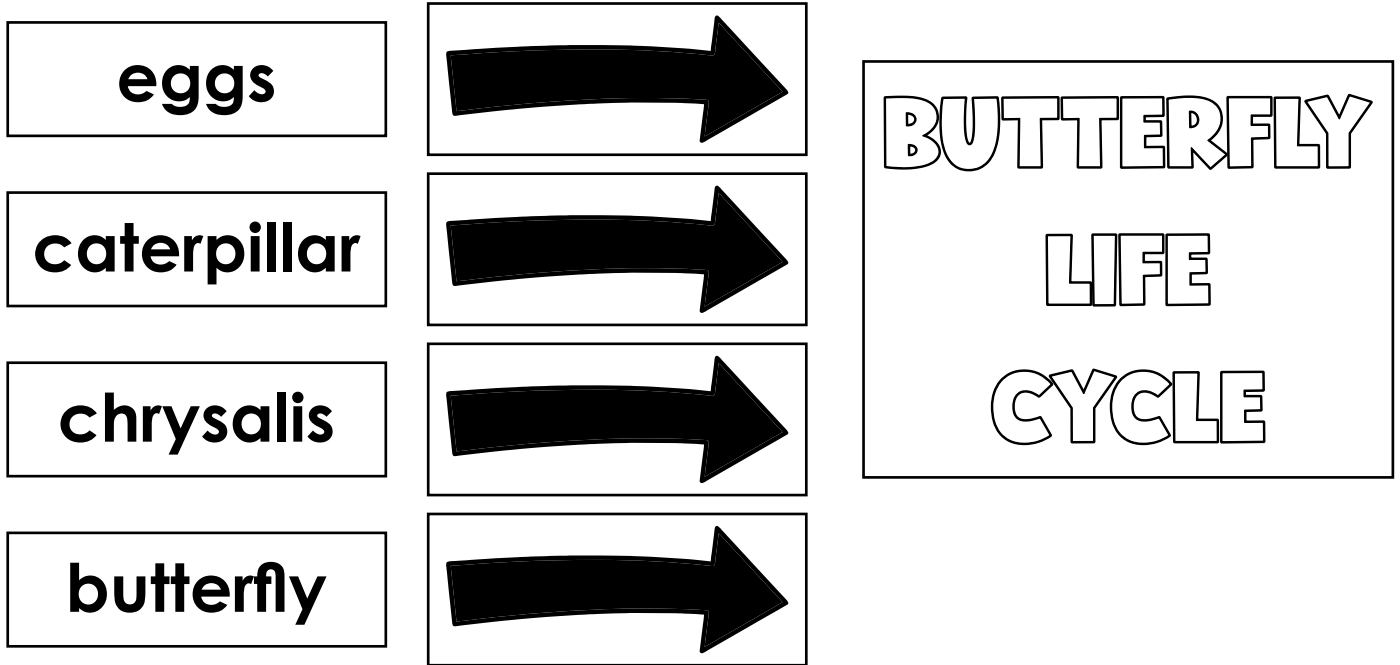
Day 5: Butterfly Migration

- *Additional Activity:* Butterfly Number Match (x2)
- *Additional Activity:* Monarch butterflies eat milkweed coloring page



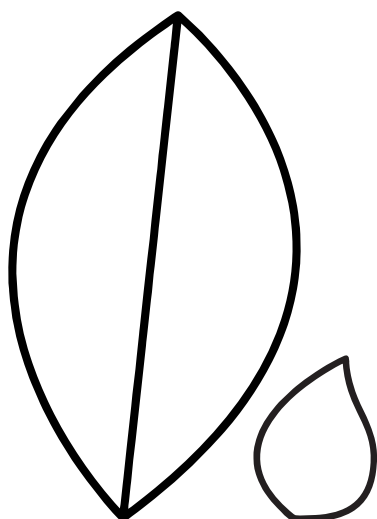
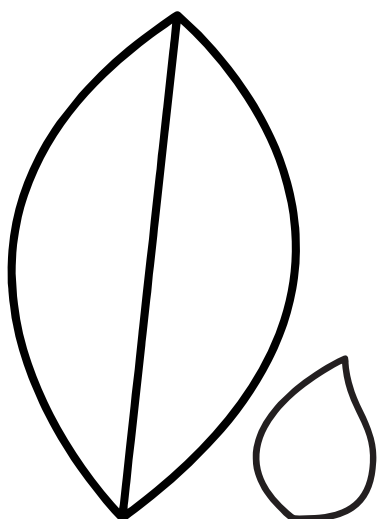
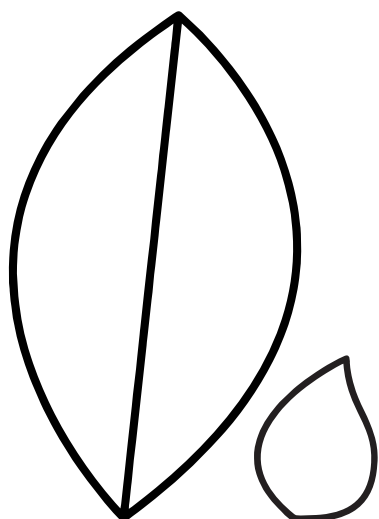
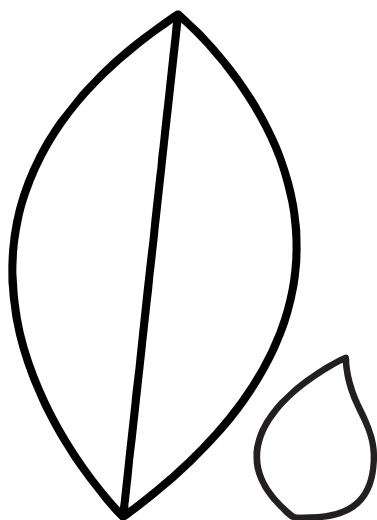
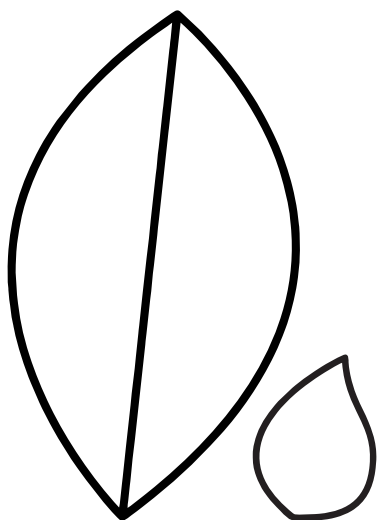
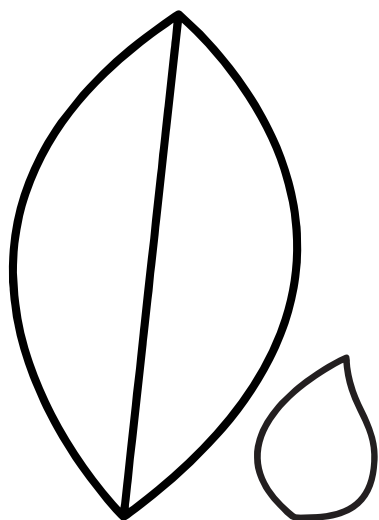
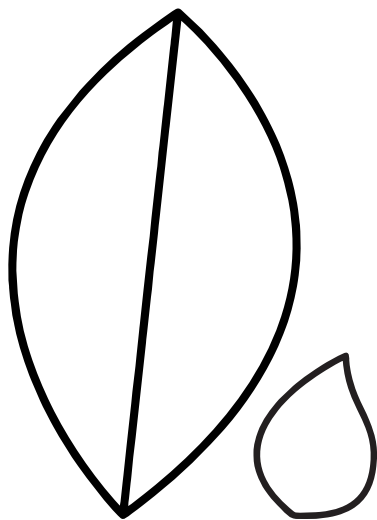
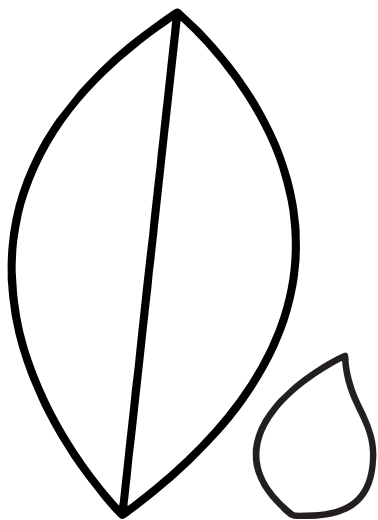
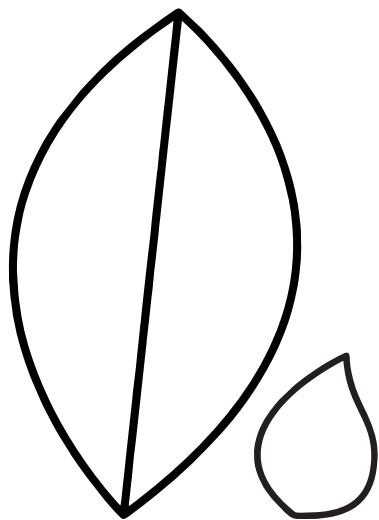
Day 3 Activity: Butterfly Life Cycle Craft

Print on white paper. Children will cut out the labels and arrows and glue them onto their paper plate.



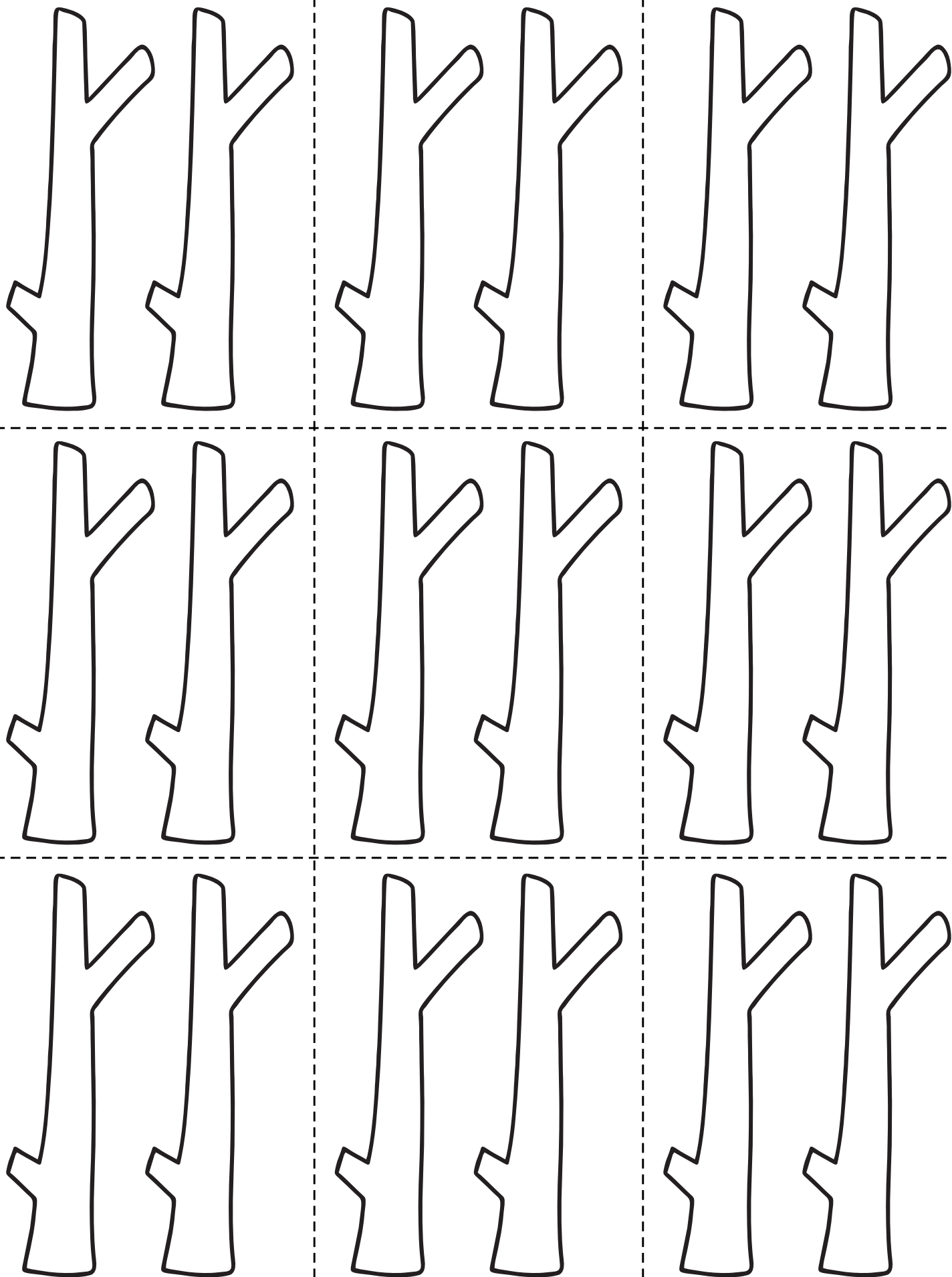
Day 3 Activity: Butterfly Life Cycle Craft

Print on green paper. Children will cut out the leaves and glue them onto their paper plate.



Day 3 Activity: Butterfly Life Cycle Craft

Print on brown paper. Children will cut out the branches and glue them onto their paper plate.



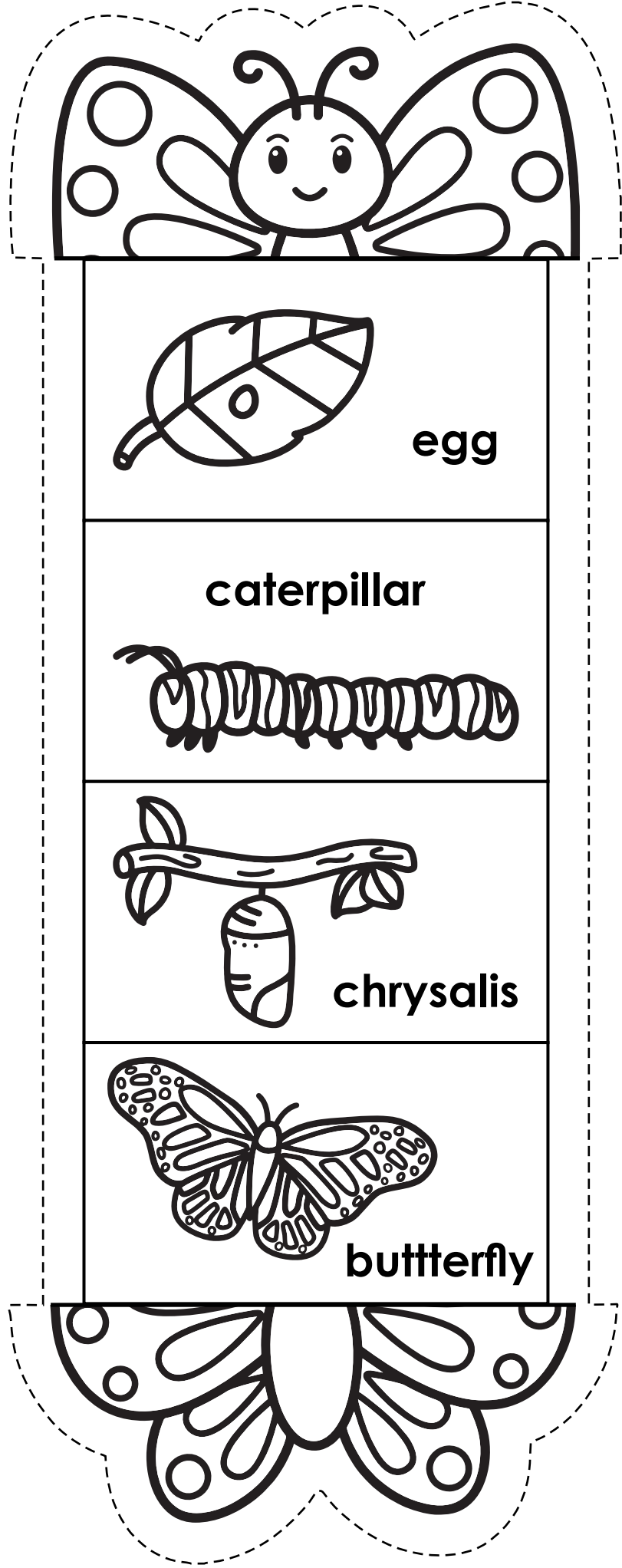
Name: _____

Day 3



Butterfly Life Cycle

Color the picture and cut around the dashed line. Fold to make a booklet.



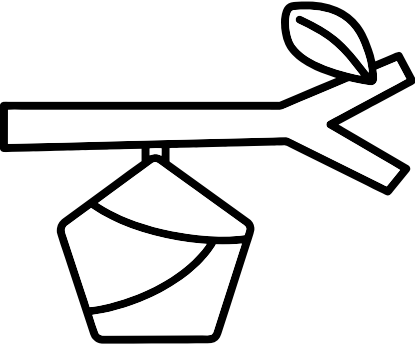
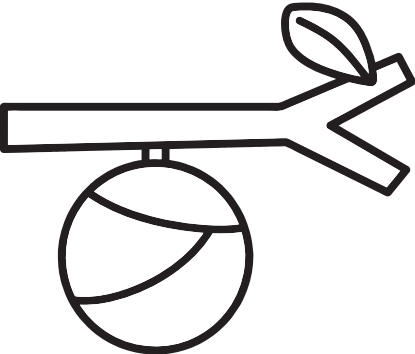


Name: Preschool Circle Time: Caterpillars & Butterflies by Lavinia Pop © 2025




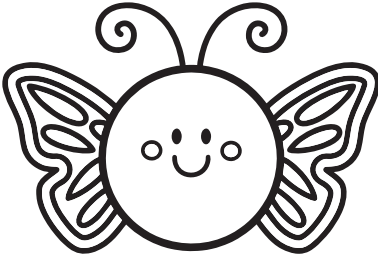
Butterfly & Chrysalis Match 1

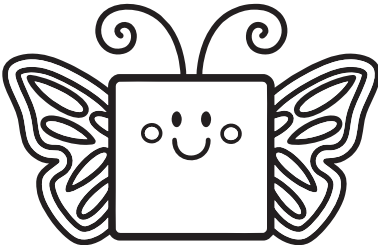
Cut and paste each butterfly next to its matching chrysalis shape.




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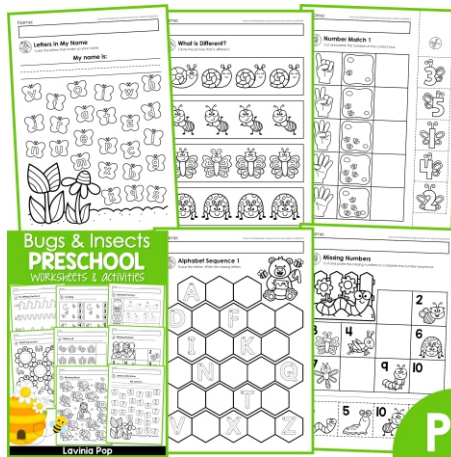








Additional Resources



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