

Butterfly Life Cycle

What do you need?

- 1 paper leaf and 1 or 2 shiny stickers (eggs)
- 2 pieces of pipe cleaner
- 1 paper shaped pupae and 1 piece of toothpick
- 1 paper butterfly
- 1 pencil crayon
- 1 paper plate
- Glue stick



What to do:

1. Using the pencil crayon draw a line down the middle of the paper plate. Then turn the plate and draw another line down the middle so you have 4 sections on your plate.
2. Take the leaf, put glue on the back, and stick it onto the plate in one of the sections.
3. Take one or both of the shiny stickers (these are the eggs) and pull them off the plastic backing and stick them on top of your leaf (Some butterflies lay eggs on the top of leaves and some underneath the leaf).
4. Next we need a caterpillar. Take the two pipe cleaners and twist them together however you want to make it look a bit like a fuzzy caterpillar. Not all caterpillars look fuzzy.
5. Glue your fuzzy caterpillar to the section beside the one where you have your leaf.
6. Next we have the pupae. A pupae often hangs on a twig so you need to take the piece of stick and glue it in the next section on your plate. Then glue one end of the white piece of paper to the stick.
7. The last stage is the adult butterfly. Take your glitter butterfly and paste it in the last section on your plate.

What's happening?

Have you heard of metamorphosis before? Metamorphosis is a change or a transformation from one form to another. The butterfly goes through metamorphosis when it changes from a caterpillar to an adult butterfly. The life cycle of the butterfly starts with the egg. A caterpillar hatches/comes out of the egg. The caterpillar eats and eats and eats and grows and grows and grows and then forms a pupa or a chrysalis. This is where the caterpillar changes from caterpillar to butterfly. The caterpillars are not asleep in the pupa, they are changing into a butterfly and sometimes if you find a pupa outside you can see it moving! When metamorphosis is complete, the adult butterfly comes out of the pupa, lets its wings unfold and dry, and then it is ready to fly away.

We have taken precautions in the handling of these materials, and the likelihood of contracting COVID-19 from packaging is currently understood to be low. However, please encourage your child to follow normal hygiene recommendations (washing hands and avoiding touching the face) and consider setting aside the materials for 3 days (72 hours) before using.