

GLE 0107.4.1 Observe and illustrate the life cycle of animals.

0107.4.1 Observe, describe, and record the life cycle of a particular animal.



Life Cycle of a Butterfly

(Webquest for first graders)



Introduction

All living things have a life cycle. During some animal's life cycle, there isn't much change. A butterfly is an animal that changes many times. A butterfly changes four times or has four stages of life. This WebQuest will help you discover the four stages of a butterfly's life.

Do you know where butterflies come from? You will use the Internet to see each of the 4 stages of the butterfly life cycle.

- The egg
 - The caterpillar
 - The chrysalis
 - The butterfly
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Task #1

Your teacher is going to discuss butterflies and read to some books about butterflies. Following this, you are going to research the life cycle of a butterfly at the websites below. Fill in the Life Cycle Butterfly [Fact Sheet \(pdf format\)](#) as you look at the websites. Draw the four stages of a butterfly's life to create a [Life Cycle of the Butterfly poster](#).

Process

1. Your teacher will ask students what they know about butterflies and read you some great books about them before starting this webquest.
2. The teacher will assign a partner for you to work with. It is important that you work well together and share ideas.
3. You and your partner will look at the webquest sites to see pictures of the life cycle of the butterfly and different kinds of butterflies.
4. You and your partner will find a poster of the 4 stages of a butterfly. Your teacher will print out and you will complete and color the poster. The poster tells the correct staged of this butterfly's life cycle. The teacher or an older student will give you directions.
5. Discuss with your partner what you have learned:
 - You have seen and learned a lot about butterflies.
 - Discuss what you learned with your partner.
 - Do butterflies grow up differently from people?
 - How do these insects change as they grow?
 - How many stages do they have?
 - What do the stages look like?
 - We saw pictures of different kinds of butterflies. Do they all look the same?





6. Write 4 complete sentences about what you learned.
7. OPTIONAL: You will make art projects of the butterfly life cycle. The teacher will give you the materials and directions.

Resources for Task #2

[The Butterfly's Life Cycle](#) - Scroll down to the bottom of the page to locate the information you need on the Life Cycle.

[Life Cycle of a Butterfly](#) - More pictures of the butterfly life cycle. Use this web site or the first one for your butterfly poster.

Evaluation

	<p>All facts are filled in correctly.</p> <p>Each stage is drawn accurately and colored.</p>
	<p>Most facts are filled in correctly.</p> <p>Each stage is drawn accurately.</p>
	<p>Some facts are filled in correctly.</p> <p>Most stages are drawn accurately.</p>
	<p>Few or no facts are filled in correctly.</p> <p>Few or no stages are drawn accurately.</p>

Conclusion

After you complete this activity you will be able to identify each of the stages of the life cycle of a butterfly. You will also be able to give one fact about each stage.

Extension

Butterfly kits may be purchased from [Insectlore](#). The kits are self-contained and provide all necessary materials. Students can extend this lesson by creating observation checklists including time frames for each stage of the life cycle.

Optional additional craft activity

Here's what you need:

- Toilet-paper tube
- Tongue depressor or ice-cream pop stick
- Heavy paper
- 6" (150 mm) piece of pipe cleaner, folded in half
- Markers or crayons
- Scissors and glue



Here's what you do:



1. Cut out and color a butterfly from the heavy paper. Use any colors, but make both halves look the same. Put a small hole at the top of the butterfly's head.
2. Color the toilet paper tube to look like a chrysalis. (A monarch butterfly's chrysalis is green, but you can use any color.)



3. Take a piece of pipe cleaner and shape it like the letter "V". Put one point through the little hole in the butterfly's head and then twist it to look like antennae. Butterflies use these "feelers" to learn about their environment.

4. Glue the butterfly to one end of the tongue depressor or ice-cream pop stick. Let the glue dry.



5. Curl the butterfly's wings and slide it into the chrysalis.

6. Pull the stick to make the beautiful butterfly come out of the chrysalis.

Fly your butterfly like a real one!