

*Butterflies teach us about life cycles*

## Goal

Teach students about insect life cycles through a close look at butterflies.

## NC Standards Addressed:

Kindergarten: *English Language Arts* – 1.01, 2.02, 3.01, 3.02, 3.04, 4.01, 4.02; *Science* – 1.01, 1.02, 1.04, 1.05.

First: *English Language Arts* – 2.03, 3.01, 3.04, 4.01, 4.06; *Science* – 1.02.

Second: *English Language Arts* – 2.02, 2.03, 2.08; *Science* – 1.01, 1.02, 1.03, 1.04.

## NC Common Core:

Kindergarten: *Language Arts* – RI.K.1, RI.K.2, W.K.3

First: *Language Arts* – RI.1.1, RI.1.3, W.1.3

Second: *Language Arts* – RI.2.5, RI.2.7



## Materials

### *Life Cycle Exploration Supplies*

- Butterfly life cycle book pages (one set per student)
- Construction paper for cover and back
- Colored pencils or markers
- Stapler

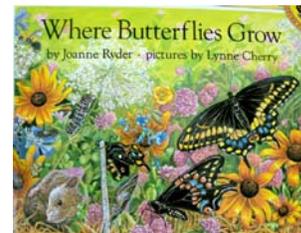
## Vocabulary

Life Cycle: A series of stages and changes that animals go through during their life.

## Activities

Read **Where Butterflies Grow** by Joanne Ryder or another weekly book about butterflies

This book takes students through the steps of a butterfly's full life cycle, from an egg to a caterpillar to butterfly, asking students to imagine what they would feel or smell or see during the transformation. The colorful, realistic illustrations offer opportunities to teach students about other plants, wildflowers, and insects. **Optional:** *After you read the book*



### **Books to Read**

Where Butterflies Grow

by Joanne Ryder

From Caterpillar to Butterfly

(Lifecycles)

by Gerald Legg

My, Oh My--A Butterfly!

by Tish Rabe

From Caterpillar to Butterfly

by Deborah Heiligman

Clara Caterpillar

by Pamela Edwards



# Insect Life Cycles



*ask students to act out the motions of the butterfly's life cycle. They can start as eggs curled up and slowly emerge as a caterpillar to climb up a leaf and crawl. They can then become still again and pretend they are in a cocoon, and finally stretch out and fly like a butterfly, etc.*

## **Make a Butterfly Life Cycle Book**

Give each student a packet of life cycle pictures (packet example included). Show the image of the butterfly life cycle. Ask them to put the cards in the correct order according to the life cycle (egg, caterpillar, chrysalis, butterfly). Students can color the pages or write a sentence about the life cycle stage. Students can also use the blank pages to make additional pages that represent other stages in the life cycle, such as the larva stage (between the egg and the full grown caterpillar), or the butterfly breaking free of the chrysalis. They can make covers for their books using construction paper. When the students have completed their life cycle books, staple them on the left hand side.

## **Learning Through Comparisons**

Ask students to research other insect life cycles. Choose a "class insect." If so, look up that insect's life cycle and share it with your students. What are the differences and similarities of the life cycles? Are any stages the same? Which stages are different? We've also enclosed the life cycle for a ladybug to use in this comparison exercise.

## **Garden Exploration**

Take students to the garden. Ask them to observe butterflies or insects in the garden. What does the insect look like? Does it fly, hop, or walk? Is it fast or slow? What does it eat? Where does it land? How long does it behave in a particular way? What does the habitat around it look like (shady, sunny, shrubby, open, etc.)? In answering these questions, the students will sharpen their observation skills.