

**Project FOCUS
Best Lessons
FIRST GRADE**

Title of Lesson: Butterfly Life Cycle

Theme: Life Science

Unit Number: 6 **Unit Title:** Animal Planet

Performance Standard(s) Covered (enter codes):

S1L1- students will investigate the basics of plant and animal life

Enduring Standards (objectives of activity):

Habits of Mind

- Asks questions
- Uses numbers to quantify
- Works in a group
- Uses tools to measure and view
- Looks at how parts of things are needed
- Describes and compares using physical attributes
- Observes using senses
- Draws and describes observations

Content (key terms and topics covered):

metamorphosis, life cycle of a butterfly, egg, caterpillar, chrysalis, butterfly

Learning Activity (Description in Steps)

Abstract (limit 100 characters): Students will review the butterfly life cycle and create a life cycle project

Details: Begin the lesson with a youtube video of "The Hungry Caterpillar." This provides a fun way to catch the children's attention. Afterwards, flip through the powerpoint that covers the stages of the butterfly life cycle. Continuously ask questions about the steps of the cycle as you move further through the powerpoint. Before beginning the art project, make sure you have the proper amount of materials. I precut the leaves, and used hole punches as eggs. I also precut brown tissue paper into small squares. The students will glue the leaf down and glue the eggs onto the leaf. They will draw the caterpillar and use a crumpled up piece of brown tissue paper as the chrysalis. Then I had the students color two coffee filters and pin them in a clothespin so they looked like the wings of a butterfly. We then sprayed the wings with a spray bottle so the colors bled. Once the wings dried we glued the butterfly onto the paper. Since this is a cycle we drew arrows between each step to show that the cycle repeats. We also labeled each step as follows: egg, caterpillar, chrysalis, and butterfly.

Materials Needed (Type and Quantity):

1 piece brown tissue paper/ student, markers, 2 coffee filters/ student, 1 clothespin/ student, 1 white construction paper/ student

Notes and Tips (suggested changes, alternative methods, cautions):

Overall, the lesson went wonderfully. Having cut everything before the class avoided the use of scissors which was a great safety precaution. Make sure you spray the wings over a sink or newspaper as to avoid a mess; the colors will bleed off the wings. It might have been better to use pipe cleaners as the caterpillar- a 3D effect seems to be more fun for the kids and more fun= a better learning tool.

Sources/References:

- 1) The Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle**
- 2)**
- 3)**