

**Project FOCUS  
Best Lessons  
FIRST GRADE**

**Title of Lesson:** Butterfly Metamorphosis

**Theme:** Life Science

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

**Performance Standard(s) Covered (enter code):**

S1L1

**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):**

Animals, metamorphosis, life cycle of a butterfly

**Learning Activity (Description in Steps)**

**Abstract(limit 100 characters):** Students will compare the similarities and differences of animals in metamorphosis.

**Details:**

When you begin the lesson, review some basics that they have learned about metamorphosis. Tell them that they are going to help a butterfly of their own grow! Let the children color and cut out the butterflies. Use a paperclip to fasten the butterfly onto its outline on the cocoon. Then paperclip the caterpillar onto its outline on the opposite side of the cocoon (using the slit you already cut out). Put glue on the body of the butterfly the kids colored. Tell the kids that the caterpillar is going to grow inside the cocoon. Tell them to close the cocoon, rub it, and then pull out the paperclips. Tell the kids to open the cocoon and the mature butterfly should fall out!

I made a cocoon out of construction paper. I paper clipped cut outs of a butterfly and a cut out of a caterpillar inside the paper cocoon so that when the children closed the cocoon, the two parts were glued together. The paper clips were then removed and the butterfly falls out when the children open the cocoon. First, fold brown, black, or white construction paper in half and cut out the cocoon. Make sure you leave the folded edge

on one side of the cocoon so the children can open and close the cocoon like a book. Next, print out a picture of a small butterfly off the Internet. Make sure it can fit into the cocoon. Print off as many as you need so that each student can color his or her own butterfly. Next, draw a small caterpillar on construction paper. Make sure the caterpillar will fit onto the butterfly you printed out. The caterpillar should look basically like the body of the butterfly because it will be glued onto it. Next, trace and cut out as many caterpillars as you need for each student. Trace the outline of the butterfly onto the inside of the cocoon. Next, you need to figure out where the outline of the caterpillar should be on the other side of the cocoon. Place the caterpillar on top of the butterfly outline, close the cocoon, flip it so when you open the cocoon, the caterpillar will be on the opposite side of the butterfly. Trace where the caterpillar ended up on the cocoon. After you have the outline of the caterpillar, cut a slit on the cocoon where a paperclip can slide through to hold the caterpillar in place.

**Materials Needed (Type and Quantity):**

Construction Paper

Scissors

Glue

Markers/crayons

Paper clips

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

Do not let the children eat the glue. Be careful with the scissors.

**Sources/References:**

1) The Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle

2)

3)