

Ashton Ramsey

Best Lesson

The Georgia Standard lesson: Life Cycles (butterfly life cycle)

Target grade level: 2nd



Materials:

- Construction paper
- Chenille stems in black (aka pipe cleaners)
- Tissue Paper
- 1 piece of brown felt
- Plastic baggies
- Multi colored puff balls
 - Small and large sizes
- Crayons & glue stick (teacher will have these items)

What to prepare in advance:

- Due to time restraints I prepared little baggies for each student for the activity.
1. Cut different colors of construction in half (hot dog style)
 2. Fold each half in four sections so that the students will know that the stages belong in each square
 3. Use green construction paper and cut leaves (2 per student)
 4. Each student needs 3 larger puff balls and 1 smaller puff ball
 5. Cut tissue paper 2x2 (1 square per student)
 6. Cut chenille stems in half
 7. Cut brown felt into small sticks (use as a branch)
 8. Each baggie for student contains: ½ construction sheet, 2 leaves, 4 puff balls (1 small, 3 large), stem of felt, ½ chenille stem
 9. I prepared an example of the activity in advance so the students would have a reference.

Safety concerns:

- Can be avoided by pre-cutting items so the students don't have to use scissors
- Pretty harmless activity, not really any safety concerns

How to facilitate the lesson:

1. show students a brief video explaining life cycles and play the game at the end of the video to clarify what life cycles are: http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/scienceforkids/life_cycle/movie.htm
2. Give each student a prepared baggie
3. Pass out glue sticks and crayons
4. Tell them to take out their $\frac{1}{2}$ construction paper piece that is folded into 4
5. At the bottom of each $\frac{1}{4}$ section they should label: egg, caterpillar, pupa, butterfly
6. Then they should glue the leaves in the sections labeled egg and caterpillar
7. I told them to draw on their leaves to add diversity among their peers
8. Each student should glue their smaller puff ball to the first section creating the egg
9. The larger puff balls should be placed in the second section on the leaf creating the caterpillar
10. In the third section labeled pupa, the students should glue their brown felt branch and then draw a cocoon hanging from the branch
11. For the last section the student have to wrap their black chenille stem around the tissue paper to create a butterfly and glue it to the paper

What you would modify in doing the lesson again?

Although this lesson seems like it would go by quickly with the prepared baggies, it actually wound up being somewhat time consuming, so allow time to complete this activity (I only had 40 minutes, and it took around 47). Some of my students were frustrated with the creation of the butterfly, so you might want to try different ways to make it. Overall I think that the students really liked the outcome of their activity. I highly recommend giving this a try, but make sure you keep your students focused on the project or the room might get kind of hectic.

