

Home Learning: suggested activities for Literacy***The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle.**

Dear parents/carers,

Find below some ideas with which to explore Eric Carle's classic children's story *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. If you do not own a copy of the story, there is a good video version on Youtube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=75NQQ-Sm1YY>

Although the story itself is short, it offers a wide range of learning opportunities for children in both Reception and Year 1. Ordinarily, at this point in the school year, I would introduce the children to a new topic based on Mini-Beasts. Many of Eric Carle's stories feature insects and have been made into short animations which you can access on Youtube. For *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, you may wish to spend some time thinking about how the caterpillar changes and consider any other creatures that change from one form to another. Perhaps the children could detail the lifecycle of a butterfly using pictures, words and simple sentences? You may also wish to invite your child to retell the story verbally or in writing. They may wish to make puppets or act the story out with siblings. Beyond the story itself, the children might wish to go on a mini-beast hunt or build a "bug hotel". I have included some ideas and resources below to get you started, but remember that the children might wish to pursue their own ideas based on this topic!

Best wishes,

Mr. Sexton

The Very Hungry Caterpillar Home Learning Challenge

The Very Hungry Caterpillar loves to eat lots of different foods. What is your favourite food? Draw a picture of your favourite food and write a sentence to tell us about it.

The Very Hungry Caterpillar eats 4 strawberries and 5 oranges. How many pieces of fruit did he eat altogether? You could use your fingers or draw a picture to help you.

In the story The Very Hungry Caterpillar eats some different foods each day. Can you remember the seven days of the week? Draw a picture or write a sentence about something you do each day.

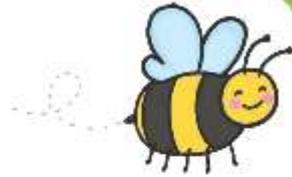
At the end of the story the caterpillar turns into a butterfly. Can you find out what a tadpole turns into? You could use the Internet or books to help you. Draw or write your answer to share with the group.

Try some of the different fruits mentioned in the story. Which one is your favourite? You could try some apples, pears, strawberries, oranges, plums or watermelon. You could also try some other fruits – what other fruit might **The Very Hungry Caterpillar** like to eat?

Draw or paint a picture of a caterpillar or a butterfly. What colours do you need? What different parts do you need to draw? Talk to an adult about your picture.



Make Your Own Minibeast Hotel



Outdoor Activity

You will need:

A suitable container or area in your outdoor area, preferably wooden

Compost

Fertile soil

Pieces of wood (various sizes)

Different sized/shaped stones

Bricks

Old roof tiles

Clay drainage tubes

Fir cones

Dry leaves

Bark

Straw, hay

Dead wood/sticks

Plants that will attract insects

Method

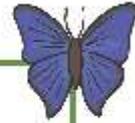
1. Choose either an area in your outdoor area or a wooden container and place it on the ground.
2. If the container hasn't already got holes in, make some holes in the bottom. That will create drainage and let minibeasts crawl in.
3. Fill the container with compost and fertile soil.
4. Use your resources to build various places for minibeasts to live.
5. Woodlice and beetles will like wood/sticks and if stacked, the minibeasts can crawl through them.
6. Plants will attract the crawling bugs like caterpillars, snails and spiders.
7. Butterflies and bees will like nectar-rich flowering plants.
8. It's up to you how much you put in your bug hotel.
9. Observe the hotel over time and see which minibeasts it attracts.
10. Can you find out which areas each kind of minibeast like best?



Minibeast Discovery

Date: _____ Name: _____

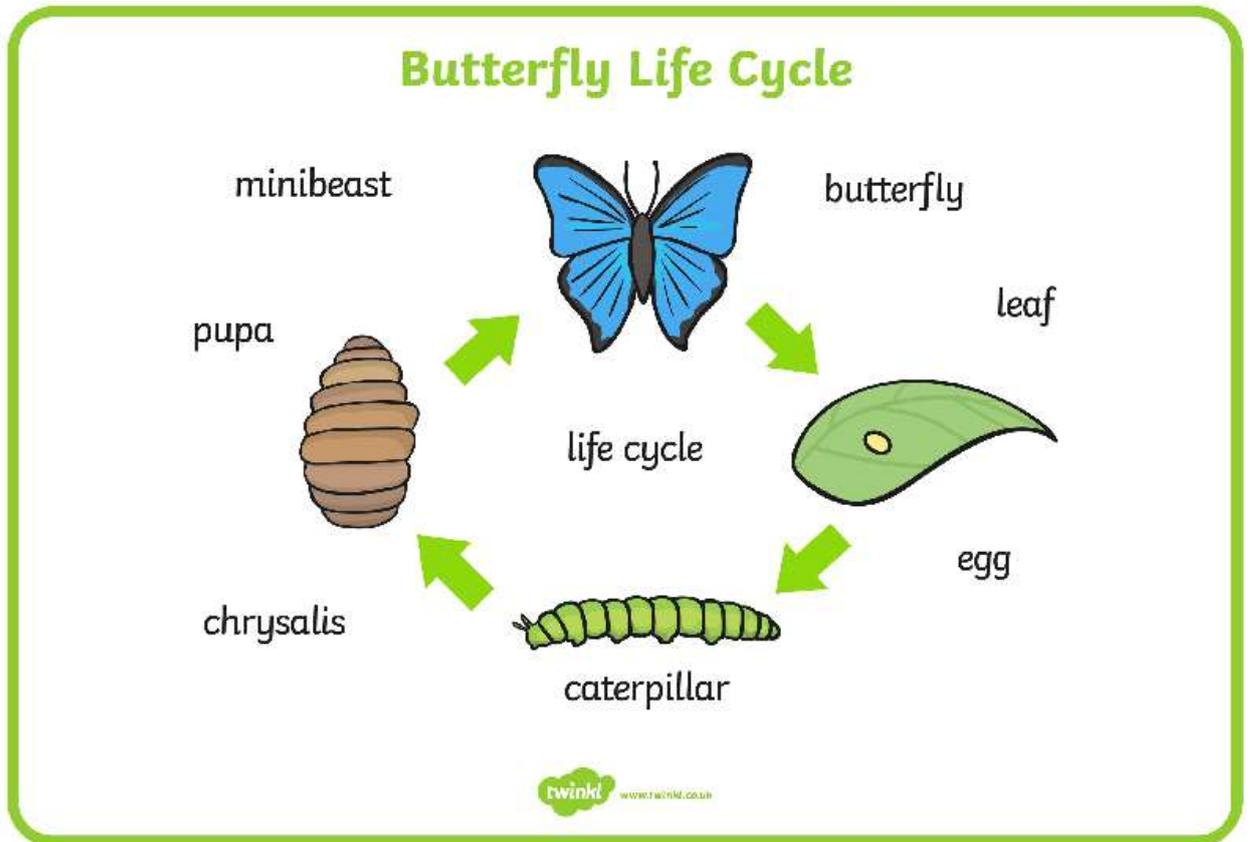
I saw a: _____



I heard a: _____

I touched a: _____





Life Cycle of a Butterfly Writing Activity

Write a sentence about each part of the life cycle of a butterfly.
Use the boxes at the top to help you.

eggs 

caterpillar 

butterfly 

chrysalis 

leaf 

 sound it out

 finger spaces

 full stop

