

Trinity Stars Stage 2 – Activity plan – Life cycle of a butterfly

Stage: 2

Language aims:

- ▶ Learning about the life cycle of a butterfly
- ▶ I can/I can't (modals expressing ability)

Performance aims:

- ▶ Improvisation
- ▶ Expressive movement

A note about timing:

With any improvisation activities, it is hard to be exact about timing as the children may get very involved and want to continue for longer, or may not respond as you expected. However as a rough guideline, you could spend approximately 15 minutes on each activity. With very young learners it is better to do a little and often.

When rehearsing for a performance, spend at least one lesson making sure everyone knows where to move and when.

For Trinity Stars Stage 2, performances should last from 10-20 minutes.

Materials needed:

- ▶ Flashcards or pictures
- ▶ Paper
- ▶ Paint

Activity

Teaching the life cycle of a butterfly

1. Use a poster or pictures on the board to show the children the different stages in the life of a butterfly.
 - ▶ First there are small eggs.
 - ▶ Then the eggs hatch into larvae or caterpillars as we call them. At this stage, the caterpillar eats a lot of leaves.
 - ▶ The caterpillar becomes a pupa (or chrysalis). At this stage, the pupa is very still and sometimes hangs from trees.
 - ▶ Finally a beautiful butterfly emerges from the pupa.

Online resources: [Life cycle of the butterfly video](#)

Improvisation and movement 1

1. How do the children think the caterpillars will emerge from the eggs?
2. Maybe they will wriggle out. Maybe they will blink with their big eyes when they come into the light? How do they think they will feel? Surprised? Excited? Peaceful?
3. Play around with different ways of moving and reacting.

Game – Wake up differently!

1. Have a set of pictures which you think will stimulate different reactions in the children; for example - a snowy scene, a present, a scary monster, a little kitten.
2. The children mime sleeping with their heads on their arms at their desks. Say 'Wake up!' and show them a different picture each time you do so. Encourage them to react as soon as they see the picture, changing their facial expressions and making different noises in response.

Improvisation and movement 2

The caterpillars are hungry! They like to eat leaves. Mime munching on leaves. Make exaggerated movements with your mouths and big gulps as you swallow.

Game – Find a leaf

1. Cut out some large leaf shapes and place them on the classroom floor. You can use the [template here](#) and colour them in, or cut out shapes from green paper.
2. Play some music and let the children dance around the leaves but they mustn't step on them. When the music stops, they must stand on a leaf.
3. Make the leaves big enough for more than one child to stand on and play the game in groups if you are short of space.
4. Call out '*Find a leaf, caterpillars!*' when the music stops.

Online resources: [Leaf template](#)
[Hungry caterpillar song](#)

Improvisation and movement

1. When the caterpillars turn into pupae, they become very still again.
2. You could use small blankets, towels or thin paper to wrap children up so that they can pretend to be sleeping pupae.
3. Maybe the pupae are dreaming. What might they be dreaming about? Perhaps they are dreaming they can fly!
4. How will the pupae wake up and become butterflies?
5. Mime stretching and yawning as they wake up and shed their casing.
6. Now look at your arms – all of a sudden you have beautiful wings!
7. Flap your arms slowly and admire them. And now you are a butterfly you can fly! How do you butterflies feel when they are flying?
8. Play some music and let the children have fun improvising.

Performance

1. Use this script as it is or as a basis for your own ideas.
2. Incorporate musical interludes if you would like to use music in your performance.
3. The script and directions can be found on the next page.

Project ideas

Below are some ideas for projects that could be used with this activity plan:

- ▶ Make 'blotted' paintings'. Give the children large, white cut outs of butterflies and show them how to paint on one side of the butterfly only. While the paint is still damp, help them to fold the paper and see the 'mirror image' of the pattern on the other wing. When the blotted paintings have dried, help the children to write or trace the word 'butterfly'.
- ▶ Make a tree. Pick large leaves from a tree and help the children to draw around the leaf shapes on green paper. Cut out the shapes. Now help the children to make a little hole in each leaf to show that the caterpillar has eaten a bit of the leaf. Arrange all the leaves on a poster. Together trace or write the words, 'Caterpillars eat leaves'.
- ▶ Make a class caterpillar. Give each child a circle of paper and help them paste their circles together to make one big class caterpillar. Add eyes and antennae. Paste the caterpillar onto the leaf poster. Help the children to label the poster.

Butterflies performance

Divide the speech so that children speak either in groups or as individuals.

We're eggs.

We're white.

We're very small.

We're caterpillars!

We're green!

We can walk. We can eat.

We like leaves! Munch munch, munch munch.

Mime eating.

We're tired! Let's go to sleep. Goodnight!

Mime sleeping.

Mime waking up.

Now the children wrap themselves in brown tissue paper, or some old newspapers to become pupae.

We're pupae (or chrysalises).

We're brown.

We can't walk. We can't eat. We can sleep!

Ssh! Be quiet please!

Mime sleeping.

Mime waking and discovering you have wings.

We're butterflies!

We're red and yellow and orange!

We're beautiful!

We can fly! We can fly!

Fly to music.

All join hands and take a bow.