

Pollinators and Flowering Plants

Butterfly life cycle mobile

Age: 7–14 Topic: Biology and Art Time: 1 hour



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What should learners already know?

• A caterpillar is the larval stage of a butterfly or moth.

What equipment will I need?

- Butterfly Lifecycle mobile PDF
- Butterfly Lifecycle mobile 2 (adult stages) PDF
- Card
- Glue sticks
- String
- Colouring pens and pencils

How will learners explore this?

- 1. Explain to children that all pollinating insects have four distinct lifecyle stages. These are the egg, the larva, the pupa, and the adult. Unlike humans, where babies and children look very similar to adults (just smaller!), each of these life cycle stages looks very different for pollinating insects.
- 2. For butterflies and moths, the larva is called a caterpillar and the pupa is called a chrysalis.
- **3**. Split the class into groups of four, with each group creating their own mobile.
- **4**. Follow the instructions on the PDF. Children should glue each PDF to a piece of card then cut out all the parts. Each child can then colour in one life cycle stage.
- **5**. Follow the instructions on the PDF to attach string to the mobiles and hang them up in the classroom to reinforce learning.

How can we show the learning?

- Challenge children by asking them to name the four stages of the pollinator lifecycle. What are the special names for the larvae and the pupae of a butterfly or moth?
- Ask children to discuss how different all the life stages look from one another. Is this similar or different from other animals?
- A good extension activity is to research eggs, larvae, pupae, and adults of different insect groups on the internet. Good examples can be found for ladybirds (beetle) and honeybees (bee).
- Discuss with children what factors each life stage has in common between all pollinator groups. Are there any factors which each pollinator group has in common throughout its life stages?

It is often very easy to find caterpillars and ladybird larvae out in school grounds, particularly on the underside of leaves or on the soil. Why not take the class outside and look for some

Did you know:

Metamorphosis is the process by which insects change from one life stage to another.











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Make a single copy of page 23, the butterfly, and two copies of this page to give you 1 butterfly, 2 pupae, 4 caterpillars and 8 eggs. Paste them onto cardboard and colour them in. Then string them together as shown in the diagram to form a mobile. The mobile illustrates the life cycle and explains that at each stage the numbers of individuals are reduced.

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CLASSROOM IDEAS LIFE CYCLE MOBILE - Butterfly

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