

Butterfly Life Cycle Relay



VIRGINIA
AQUARIUM
& MARINE SCIENCE CENTER

Students will experience the life cycle of a butterfly through a fun and interactive relay race.

Duration

Preparation: 10 minutes

Activity: 10 minutes

Supplies

- One paper plate for every three students
- Two saltine crackers for every three students
- One full small roll of toilet paper for every three students
 - Sheets or blankets could be used as a less wasteful and reusable alternative to toilet paper.
- Four straws for every three students
- One cup with 1/2 cup of water for every three students
- One butterfly life cycle page for each student
- Crayons or markers for coloring the assessment
- Pencils

Background

There are many steps in the life cycle of a butterfly. Caterpillars are born from tiny eggs laid by a butterfly on a leaf. After eating lots of leaves, the caterpillar starts to build a chrysalis around its body. The caterpillar stays in the chrysalis and slowly starts to turn into a butterfly. When the butterfly is ready, it breaks through the chrysalis with fresh new wings and hangs them out to dry before flying off to find flowers and laying eggs of its' own. Then the cycle starts all over again!

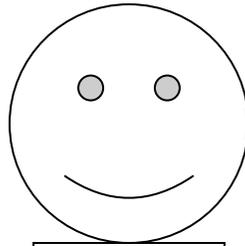
Instructions

1. Begin by explaining to the students that they will become a part of the butterfly life cycle.
2. Split the class into groups of three students.
 - a. One person in each group needs to be a caterpillar, one a chrysalis, and one a butterfly.
 - b. They will need to stand in a line ten feet apart in the following order, the caterpillar looking at the back of the person who will be the chrysalis and the chrysalis looking at the back of the butterfly.
 - c. Once in a line, they can look around at each other and cheer their team on.
3. When all the students are in their proper position, place a paper plate with two saltine crackers behind the chrysalis participants and set a roll of toilet paper beside these students as well. Then, provide each butterfly with four straws connected by placing one just inside the other to make one very long straw, and give them each a half a cup of water placed on the floor in front of them.
 - a. For a visual representation of how the students should be set up, print the Butterfly Life Cycle Relay Race Help Sheet for the adult to use as a reference
4. For classroom management purposes, have only four groups going at a time and have the rest of the class watching.

5. Explain that the relay will begin with the caterpillars.
6. Due to the caterpillar's large appetite, the caterpillar will eat two crackers without his hands. Once finished (show empty mouth to teacher), he will go help the next student get into a toilet paper chrysalis.
7. It is important that you tell students they have to use the whole roll of toilet paper to keep it fair and not to cover their face or put the paper around their neck for safety reasons. Once the chrysalis is complete and the toilet paper is gone, the student breaks out of the chrysalis then counts to ten, representing the wings drying out.
8. Once out, the newly emerged butterfly goes to tag the next student who becomes the butterfly and must use the super long straw to drink the water (nectar) out of the cup (flower).
9. Once there is no water left, the relay is over. As a review, ask students to name the stages of the butterfly life cycle they just acted out in the relay.
 - a. Ask which stage was missing from the relay? (the egg)
 - b. Where would the egg belong in the sequence? (before the caterpillar)

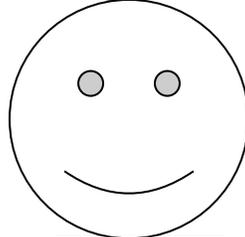
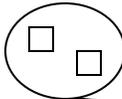
Extension

Have students label the butterfly life cycle using the Life Cycle of a Butterfly Worksheet that is attached below.



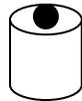
caterpillar

Caterpillar runs 10 feet to where the chrysalis is, eats the crackers, and tags the chrysalis.



chrysalis

Caterpillar helps the chrysalis to become rolled up in the toilet paper. The chrysalis then breaks out, counts to ten to represent the wings drying out, then runs to the butterfly and tags him/ her.



Roll of toilet paper



butterfly

Butterfly drinks the water completely and the race is completed.



Cup of water with 4 straws attached together

Name: _____

Life Cycle of the Butterfly

1 – The Egg

2 – The Caterpillar

3 – The Chrysalis

4 – The Butterfly