



## Southeast Alaska Discovery Center - Lab Ward Lake

### Butterfly Life Cycle Activity Instructions

#### Activity Goal:

Insects have a fascinating life cycle. Cultures around the world have included the apparently magical transformation of the caterpillar to a tiny winged artwork in stories and myths. In this activity you will be creating a butterfly life cycle model, identifying the 4 stages of a butterfly's life cycle, and labeling each stage. You may choose to stretch your drawing skill or color and glue a printed version.

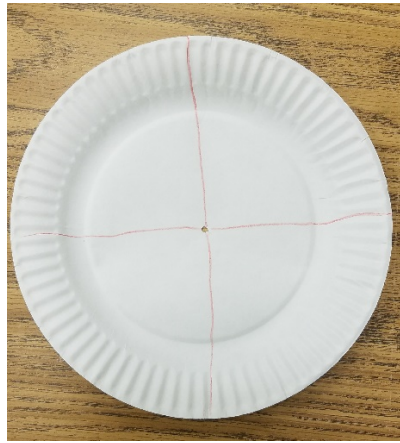


#### Supplies:

1. Paper plates
  - a. Full sized
  - b. Precut 1/4<sup>th</sup>
2. Colored pencils
3. Brass connector pins
4. Butterfly life cycle printouts
5. Glue sticks
6. Scissors

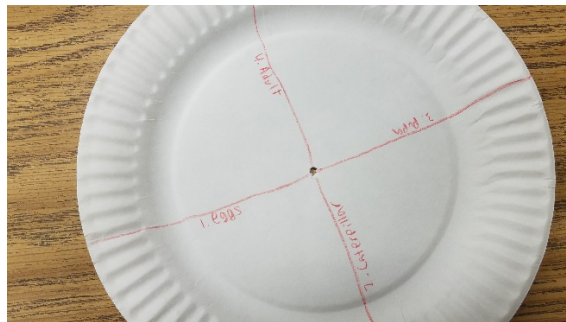
### Instructions:

1. Start with identifying the 4 stages of the butterfly life cycle using a premade example. Move through each stage with students and briefly describe the amount of time the butterfly spends in each stage. (Image attached at bottom)
2. Pass out supplies to students or have supplies readily available for them to grab.
3. With the full paper plate in hand, tell students to draw a straight line from top to bottom and side to side. Creating 4 equal sections to your paper plate like the example below.



a.

4. You will then label the 4 sections of your plate
  - a. 1. Eggs
  - b. 2. Caterpillar
  - c. 3. Pupa
  - d. 4. Adult



e.

5. In each section you will cut out and glue the matching life cycle stages. Or color them in by hand.



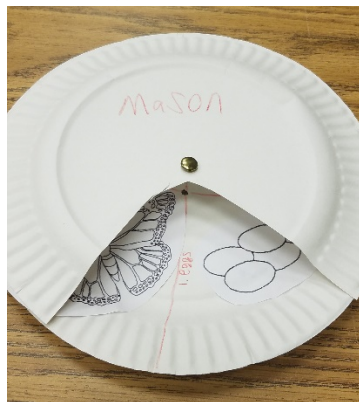
a.

6. With the precut paper plate in hand tell students to write their name and “The life Cycle of the Butterfly” on the backside. Anywhere is fine.



a.

7. Hold up the brass connector and tell students to take the bottom pointed end and pierce the center of both paper plates. This will work best by having the paper plates overlap before you pierce them. Make sure paper plates are facing each other’s topside. There should be an open area between the plates.



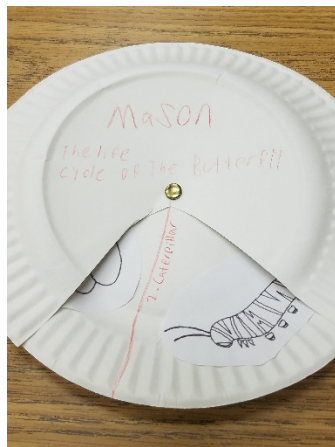
a.

8. Fold the legs of the brass connector out and along the backside of the bottom paper plate. Your Butterfly Life Cycle model is now complete.



a.

### 9. Finished Product

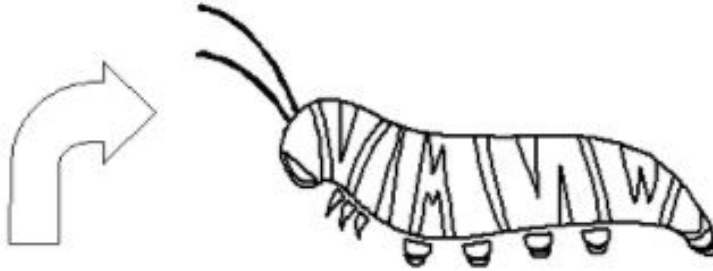


a.

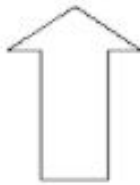
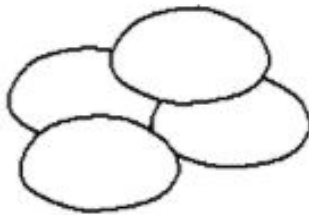
### Notes:

1. For a younger group have the lines already drawn on the paper plate. And the life cycle stages already cut out and ready to be glued.
2. For an older group only supply the pencils and have them draw the life cycles.
3. The level of prep depends on the level of the students.

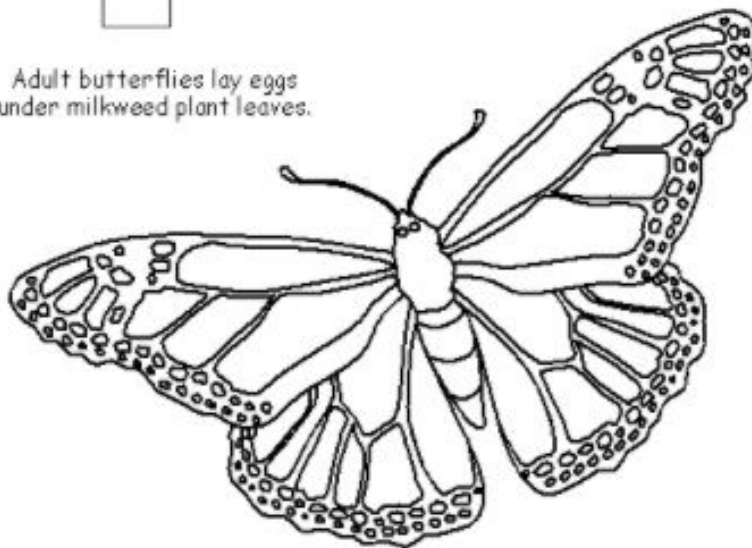
Name: \_\_\_\_\_



The eggs hatch. Larva eat the milkweed leaves for about 2 weeks as they develop into full grown caterpillars.

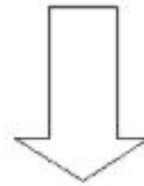


Adult butterflies lay eggs under milkweed plant leaves.



**LIFE  
CYCLE  
of the  
MONARCH  
BUTTERFLY**

The caterpillars attach themselves head down to a convenient twig. They shed their outer skin and begin the transformation into a pupa (or chrysalis), a process which is completed in a matter of hours.



After about two weeks, the butterfly emerges from the chrysalis.

The butterfly waits until its wings stiffen and dry before it flies away to start its life cycle all over again.

