

Special Ed



LIFE CYCLE OF A BUTTERFLY



ALSO INCLUDES GOOGLE SLIDES

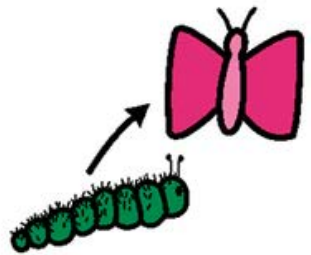
Special Needs for Special Kids



This unit was created with this guy in mind. He has autism and an intellectual disability. He is a non-reader, and loves all kinds of bugs, especially butterflies. With some support, he is able to do this unit and enjoys the challenge. He is my tester!!

Butterfly Life Cycle Unit

By
Christa Joy
Special Needs for Special Kids



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Also included in this resource as separate files:

- Lesson plans
- Links and directions to digital activities
- PowerPoint (**this is the book in the lesson plan**)
- Voice recorded PowerPoint
- Activities in black and white

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This unit contains 11 days of material that is in both printable and digital formats. I have included a detailed lesson plan to help you make the most of everything in this unit including how to add some group activities.

It comes in 2 separate files. One in color and one in black and white.

Butterfly Life Cycle Lesson Plan

Preparation

- Print out a vocabulary board for each student to use throughout unit
 - Laminate or place in page protector
- Book
 - Print out, laminate, and bind
 - OR your students can listen to the pre-recorded version

Preassessment (do day 1 before starting lesson)

- Choose the form of the assessment that best fits the learning level of your students
- Give the assessment to assess what your students may already know
- I cannot emphasize enough how important this step is. If you want to see growth, this preassessment is so important!!

Teaching Tips

- *Color Coding:* this is a really easy way to add more structure to a matching activity. Outline or color in an empty box or sorting label. Outline or color in the corresponding picture symbols the same colors. Becomes a color matching task.
 - a. For more info, read more here:
<https://specialneedsforspecialkids.org/2015/09/05/using-color-coding-for-differentiation/>
 - b. I also have a blog post on differentiating one activity 3 ways:
<https://specialneedsforspecialkids.org/2018/10/22/differentiating-1-activity-3-ways-easily-and-effectively/>
- *Make your own copies of the activities:* Every day I review the activity we did yesterday. For that reason:
 - a. I often complete the activity myself and often laminated it for easy review that I could use year after year.
 - b. My copies were also helpful as either a model for students who needed more support or as a way for more advanced students to self-check their work.
- *Options for Use:* Turn any activity into a reusable file folder activity by laminating and adding Velcro.

The lesson plans contain:

Overall tips for teaching
students with significant
needs

Quick Look

Day	Activity	Day	Activity
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Book• Vocab board activity• Circle map	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Book• Vocab board• Life cycle diagram
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Book• Vocab board activity• Life Cycle ws	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Book• Vocab board• My Butterfly book
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Book• Vocab board activity• Sorting activity	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Book• Vocab board• Close worksheet
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Book• Vocab board• Venn Diagram	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Book• Vocab board• Close worksheet
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Book• Vocab board• Life cycle diagram	11	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Book• Assessment
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Book• Vocab board• Life cycle diagram		

The lesson plans contain:

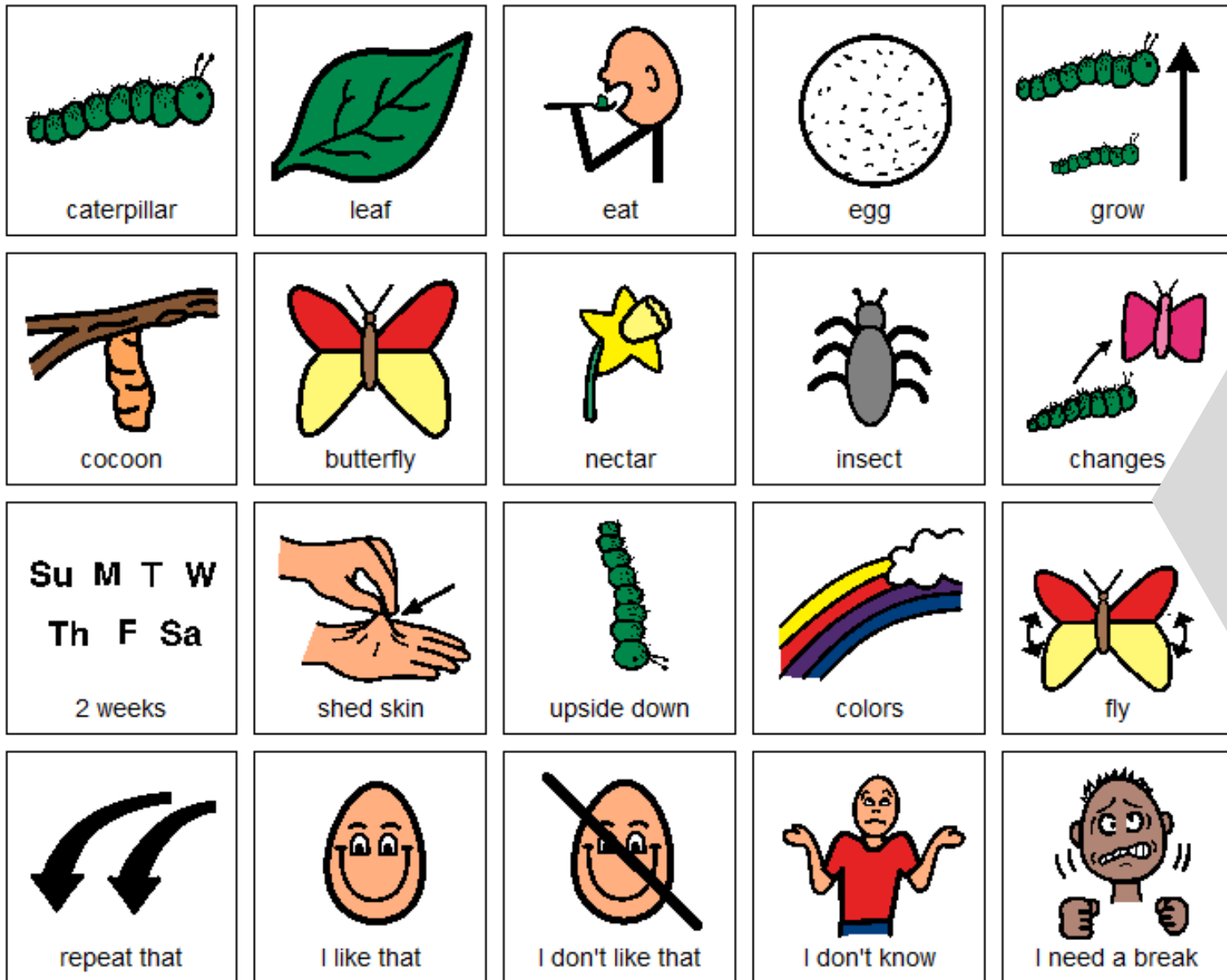
A quick look at what you will do each day

Day 3

Activity	Notes	Materials
Read or listen to a recording of the book (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read through the story, asking lots of questions• Continue to make connections between book and vocabulary board	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Book• Vocabulary board
Vocabulary board Scavenger Hunt Game (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paste the cut-out symbols around the room• Students walk around with their vocabulary board looking for matching symbols• Place a sticky note on their board covering the symbols as they find them	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• one copy of the board for each student• one teacher copy you have cut apart (enlarging it also helps but is not necessary)• Sticky notes
Review circle map (5 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review the circle map completed yesterday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• circle map completed was
Sorting activity (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do the sorting activity• This activity uses real photos.• Attach the sorting label to the top of a piece of construction paper• Sort the photos onto to correct piece of paper• There a lot of photos and you may want to do this over the course of 2 days.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 pieces of construction paper• Scissors• Glue
Sharing (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Each student shares their finished sorting activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Completed activity• Communication devices

The lesson plans contain:

Detailed instructions on how that day's lesson should run



This unit comes with a vocabulary board.

Vocabulary boards are great for ALL students to assist with participation and engagement in group discussions.

Tips on how to use in the unit!!

Butterflies have a very interesting **life cycle**. They go through a process with a lot of changes called **metamorphosis**.



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What the egg looks like and how big it is varies with the **species** of butterfly.



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There is a 36-page book with simple text and engaging photos.

It comes in a PowerPoint version as well as a voice-recorded PowerPoint (so you don't have to print it out.) There is also a movie version you can use in google slides.

cocoon

Third stage in the life cycle of a butterfly.
It is a hard shell that protects the caterpillar as it turns into a butterfly.



pupa

Another name for a cocoon, the hard shell that protects the caterpillar as it turns into a butterfly



butterfly

Flying insect that through metamorphosis, comes from a caterpillar.



emerge

To come out of, like the butterfly comes out of the cocoon.



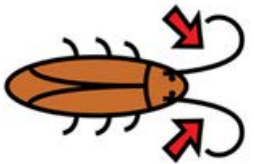
hemolymph

Fluid, like blood, that pumps into the wet butterfly wings to make them strong and ready to fly.



antennae

Long, thin body parts that come from the head of insects. Butterflies smell with them.



nectar

Sweet liquid in flowers that butterflies eat.



proboscis

Long tube that butterflies use to reach down into the flower and eat with.



There are 16 vocabulary cards that come in color and black and white.

Included are suggestions for group activities to do with these each day.

Life cycle

Being born or emerging from an egg, growing older, becoming an adult.



insects

Small animals that have 6 legs, 3 body parts and often have 2 wings.



egg

The first stage of many life cycles including butterflies. They are sticky and will stay on the leaf or stick even upside down.

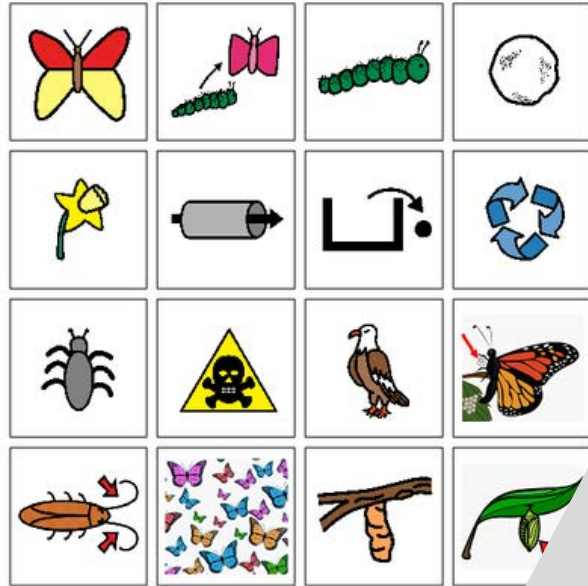


metamorphosis

Turning from a caterpillar into a butterfly.



Cut apart and match pictures with definition.



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There is an activity where students will match either the picture to the definition or the definition to the picture (harder).

predator



species



caterpillar



poisonous



Small animals that have 6 legs, 3 body parts and often have 2 wings.

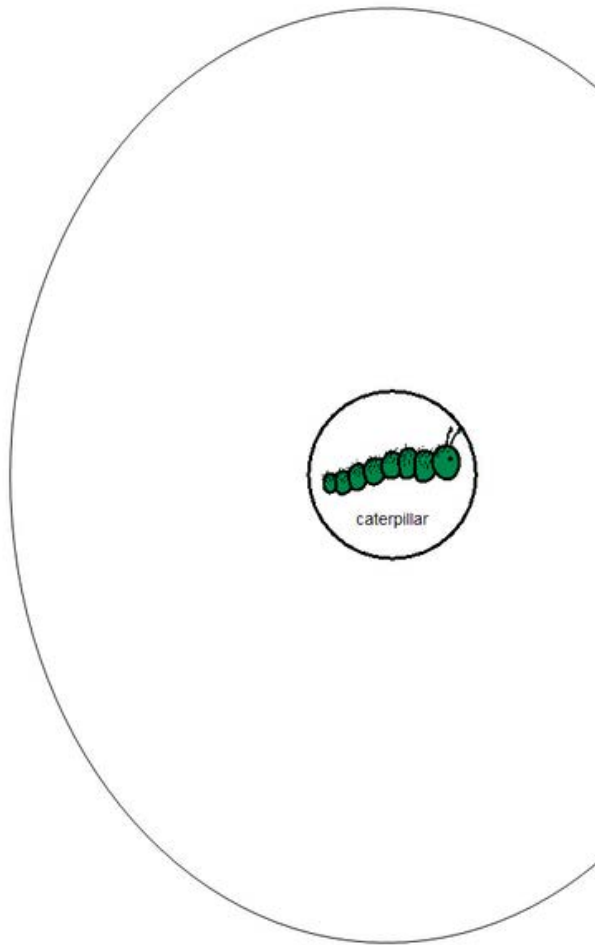
A group of plants that are related to each other.

Flying insect that through metamorphosis, comes from a caterpillar.

To come out of, like a butterfly comes out of the cocoon.

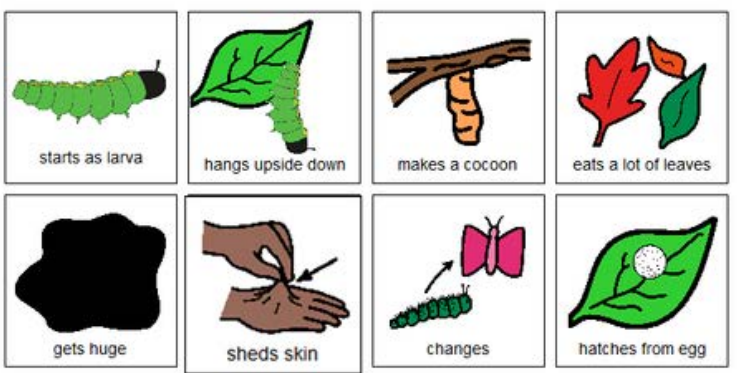
Another name for a cocoon, the hard shell that protects the caterpillar as it turns into a butterfly.

Long, thin body parts that come from the head of insect. Butterflies smell with their antennae.



Errorless version

Cut apart pictures below and place in circle map on previous page about caterpillars.



Cut apart pictures below and place in circle map on previous page **ONLY** if they are about caterpillars.

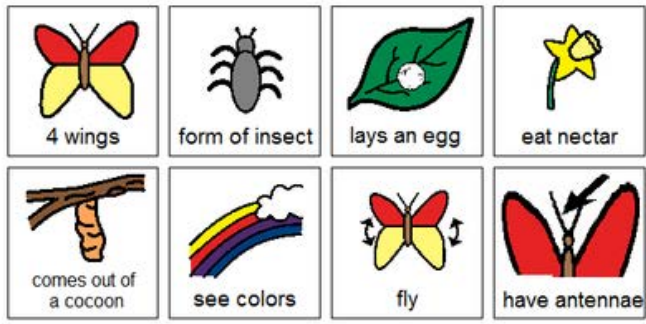


There are two circle maps, one on caterpillars and one on butterflies.

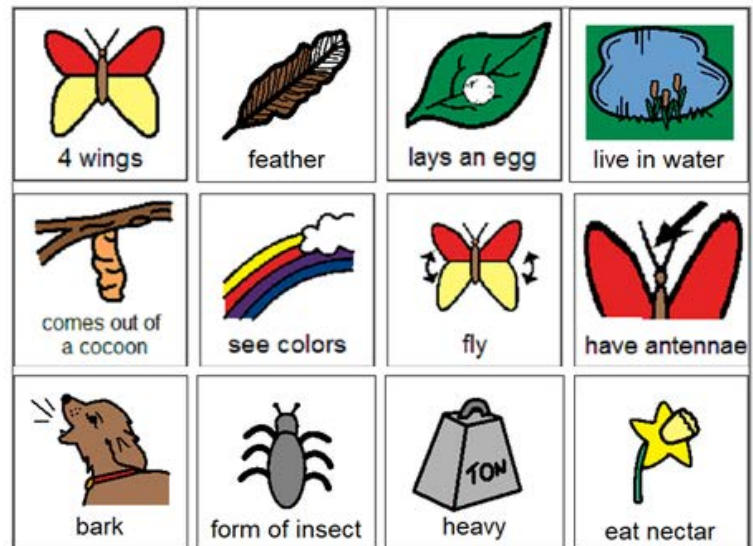
Circle maps are a great way for students to see the concept at a glance. There are 2 versions:

- One is errorless
- One has wrong answers mixed in students will have to set aside

Cut apart pictures below and place in circle map on previous page about butterflies.

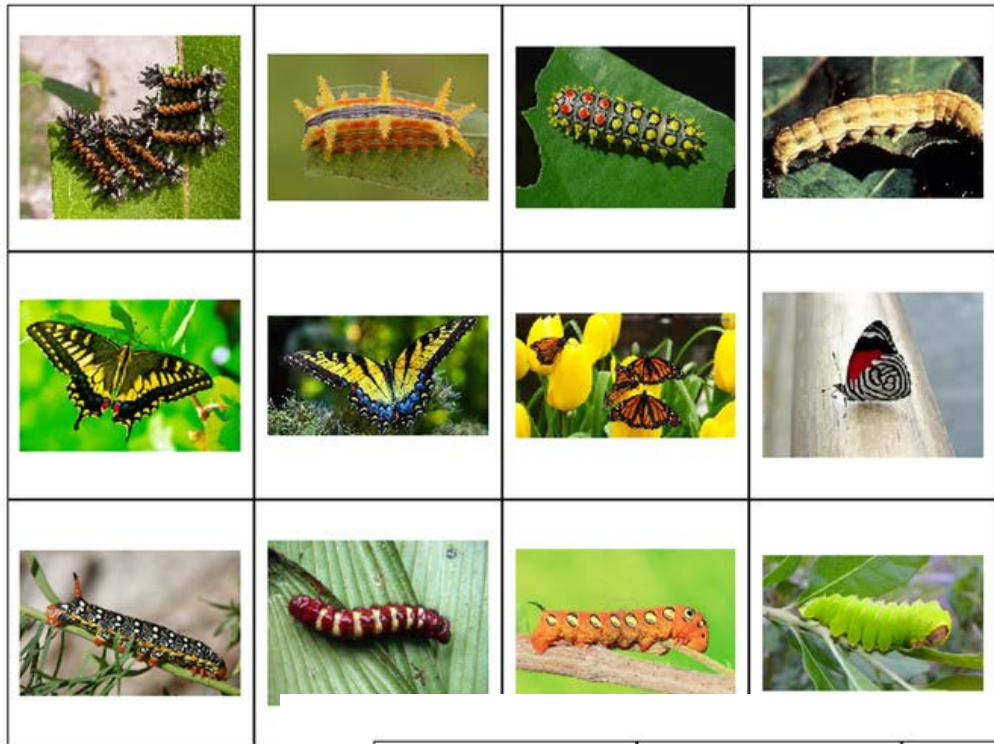


Cut apart pictures below and place in circle map on previous page **ONLY** if they relate to a butterfly.

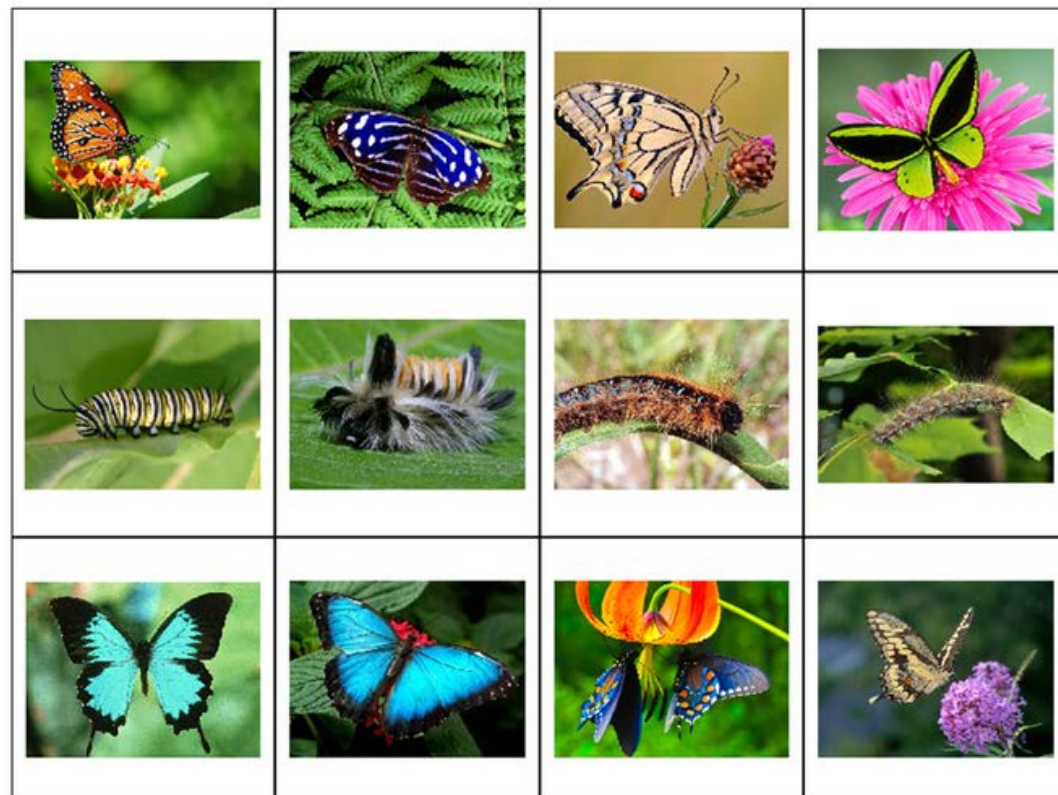


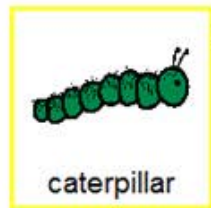
There are two circle maps, one on caterpillars and one on butterflies.

Again, each circle map has two options. One has only correct answers, and one has wrong answers mixed in. Very easy to differentiate for the various learning levels in your class.

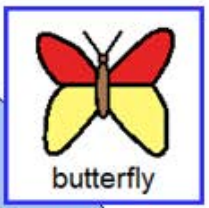


There is a sorting activity where students will sort photographs of caterpillars and butterflies into 2 groups.

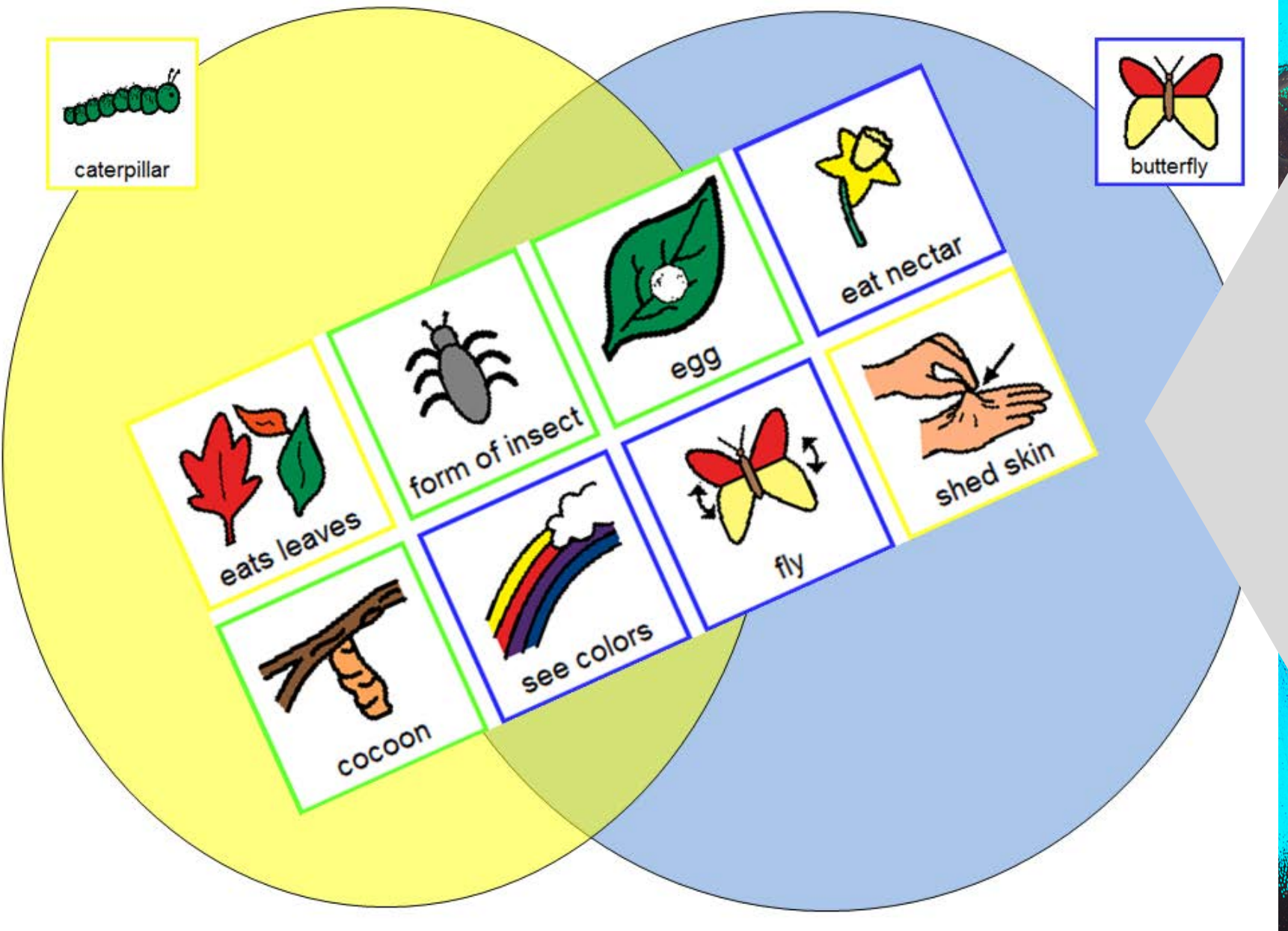




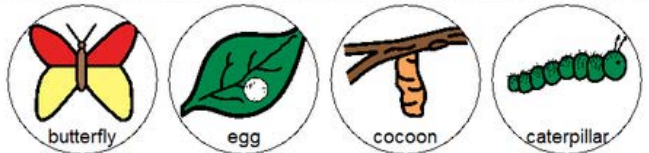
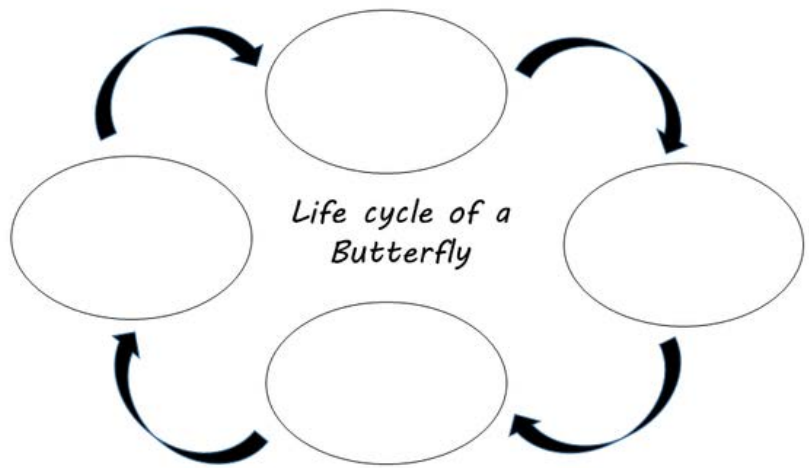
caterpillar



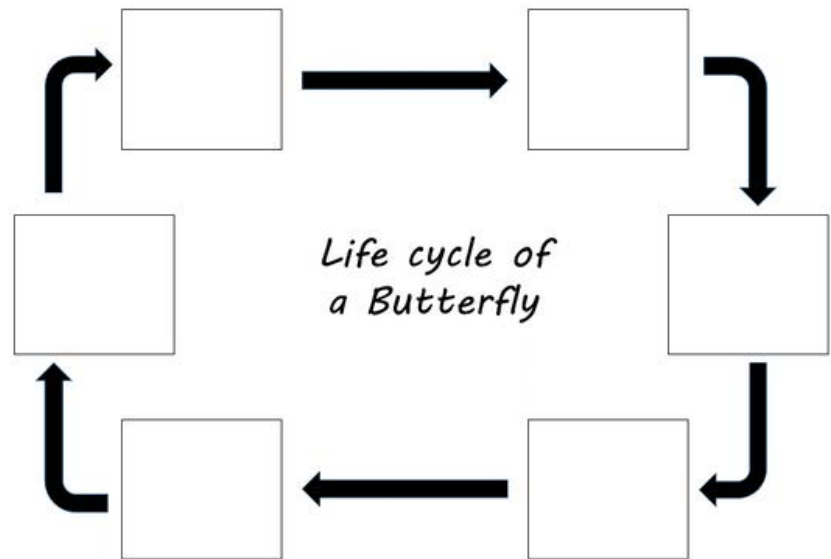
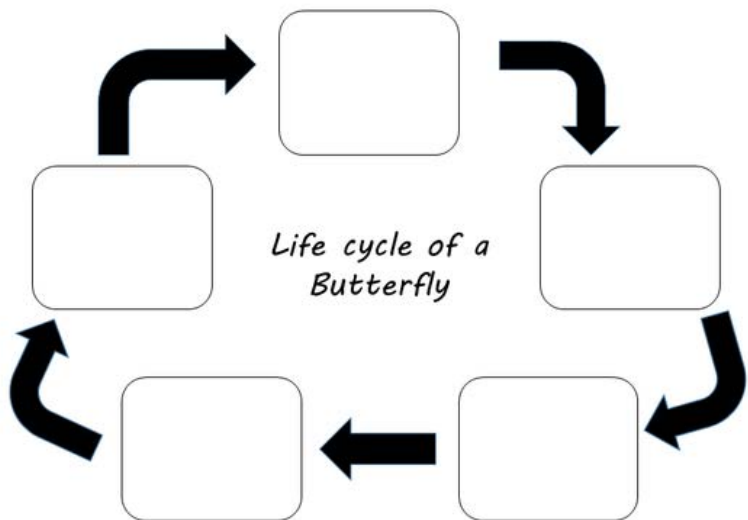
butterfly



There is a Venn Diagram where students compare caterpillars and butterflies. It comes with a color-coded option shown here.



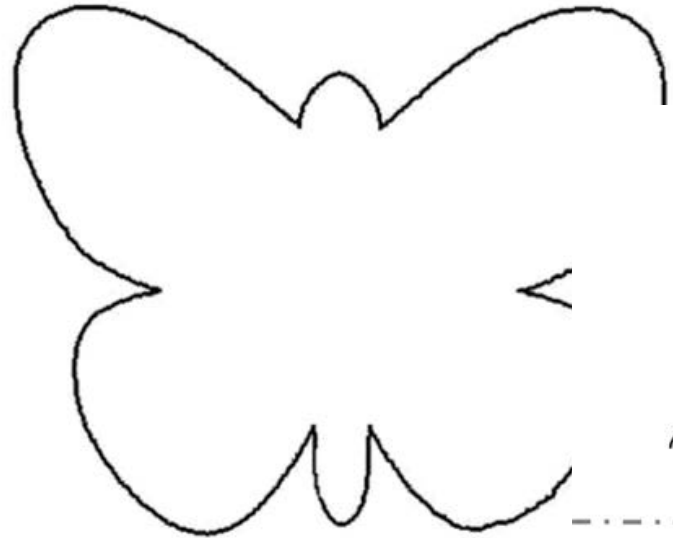
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There are 3 different life cycle charts for students to complete that have increased detail and more steps. Suggestions for differentiation are included.

Butterfly template. Cut 8 for each book.



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A butterfly begins its life as an egg on a leaf.

Page 1



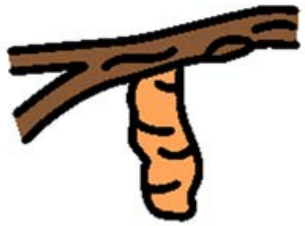
The caterpillar hatches from the egg and starts eating the leaf.

Page 2



The caterpillar hangs down when it is done eating.

Page 3



The caterpillar then builds a cocoon around itself.

Page 5

2



It will stay in the cocoon for about 2 weeks.

Page 6



The butterfly comes out of the cocoon.

Page 7



It stretches and dries its wings then flies away.

Page 8




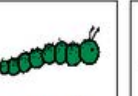

























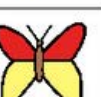
Students can assemble a book shaped like a butterfly that also reviews the main steps of the life cycle.

Make one copy for each student.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	32	33	34	35

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Make multiple copies.

 caterpillar	 caterpillar	 caterpillar	 caterpillar	 caterpillar	 caterpillar
 caterpillar	 caterpillar	 caterpillar	 caterpillar	 caterpillar	 caterpillar
 cocoon	 cocoon	 cocoon	 cocoon	 cocoon	 cocoon
 cocoon	 cocoon	 cocoon	 cocoon	 cocoon	 cocoon
 butterfly	 butterfly	 butterfly	 butterfly	 butterfly	 butterfly

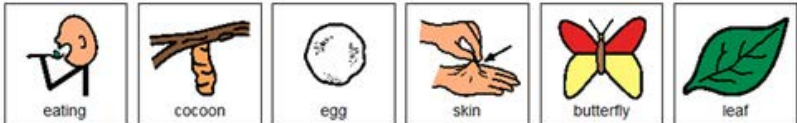
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If you are actually growing caterpillars in the classroom, then there is an activity where students can log the progress of a caterpillar becoming a butterfly.

Caterpillars



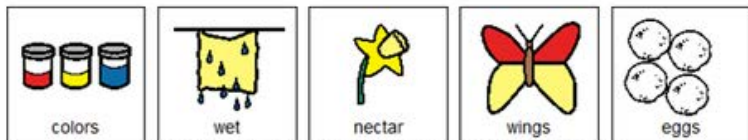
1. Caterpillars hatch from an laid by a .
2. Caterpillars spend most of their lives .
3. They grow so fast, they shed their 4-5 times.
4. Once it is done eating, the caterpillar will hang upside down from a .
5. The caterpillar forms a where it stays for 2 weeks before becoming a butterfly.



Butterflies



1. When the butterfly comes out of the cocoon, its wings are .
2. Butterflies pump hemolymph into their to get stronger.
3. Once ready to fly, they search for to eat.
4. To keep predators away, many butterflies have bright .
5. The adult female butterfly will then go lay on a leaf to start the life cycle over again.



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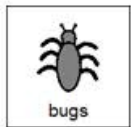
Close worksheets are a great informal assessment. This unit has two that cover the main concepts from the book. Suggestions for differentiation are included.

Answer key included.

1. Where does the butterfly lay an egg?



2. What do caterpillars eat?



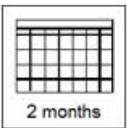
3. Caterpillars grow so fast, what do they shed 4-5 times?



4. How do you know when a caterpillar is ready to make a cocoon?



5. About how long does the caterpillar stay in the cocoon?



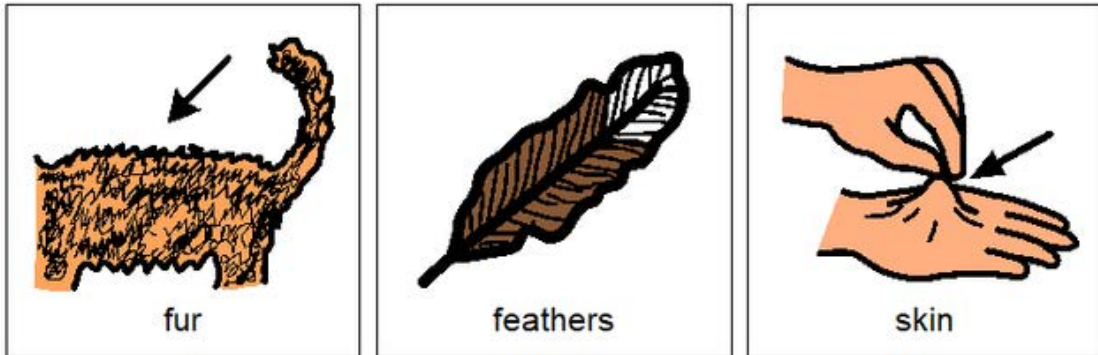
There is a 10 question assessment.

There are 2 versions. This version has 10 questions with 3 picture choices for each question.

Answer key included.

Answer choices for version 2. Cut apart and mount on index cards.

Q3



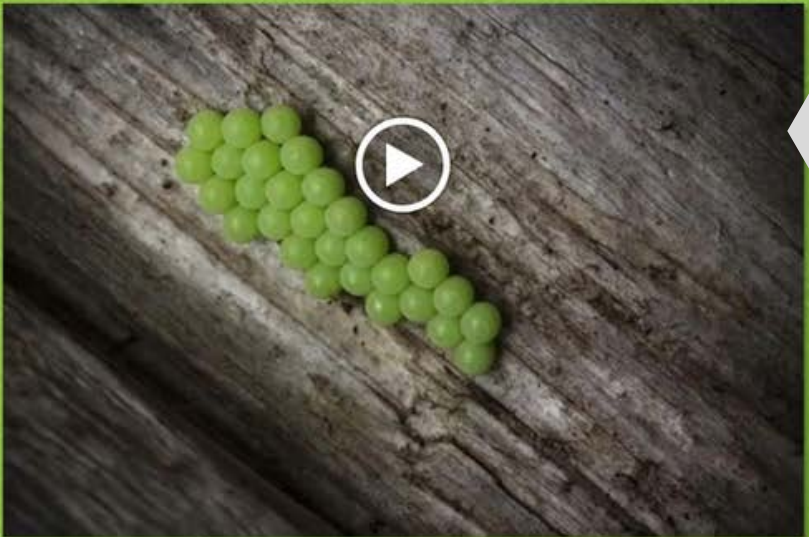
Q4



With this version, you cut out the answer choices and glue them on index cards. Ask the student the question, and they point to the correct answer.



The eggs are sticky, so they will stay on the leaf or branch even while upside down.



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Watch the movie on the Butterfly life cycle

This unit also includes digital versions of the activities.

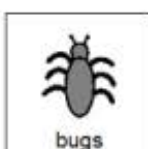
Students can watch a movie book version of the book rather than printing it out.



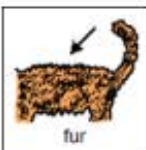
1. Where does the butterfly lay an egg?



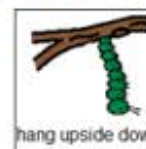
2. What do caterpillars eat?



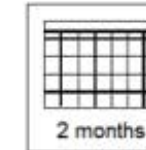
3. Caterpillars grow so fast, what do they shed 4-5 times?



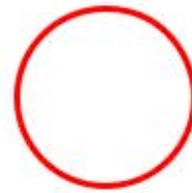
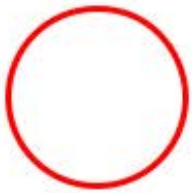
4. How do you know when a caterpillar is ready to make a cocoon?



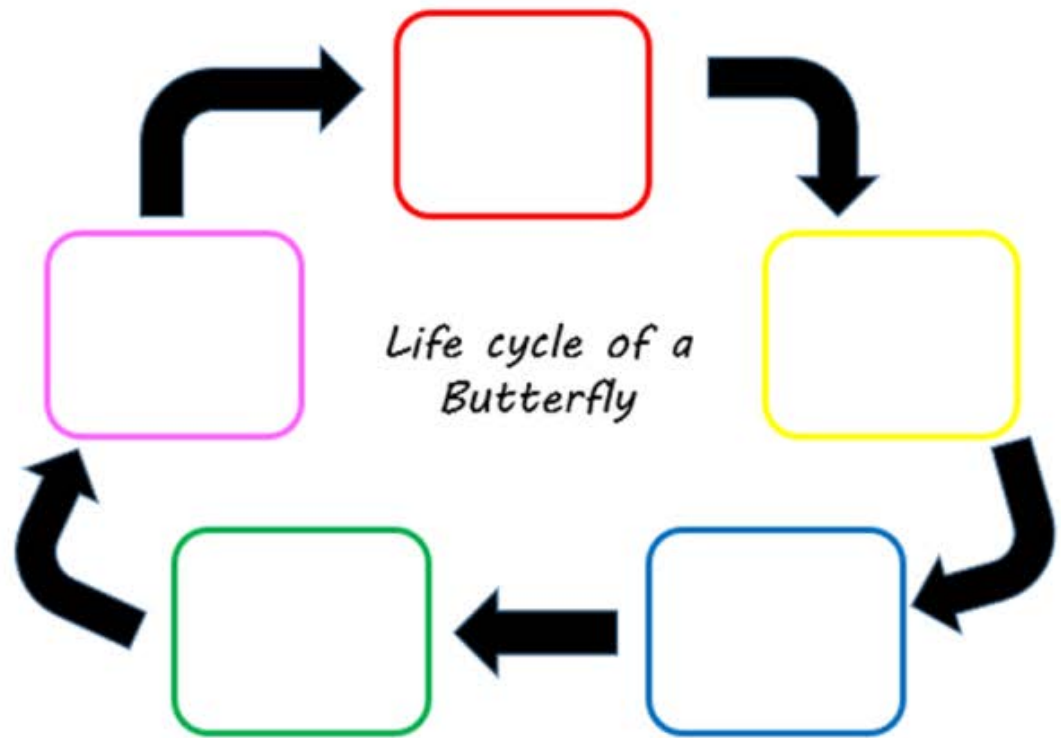
5. About how long does the caterpillar stay in the cocoon?



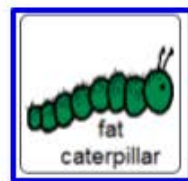
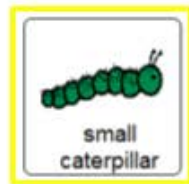
Circle the correct answer.



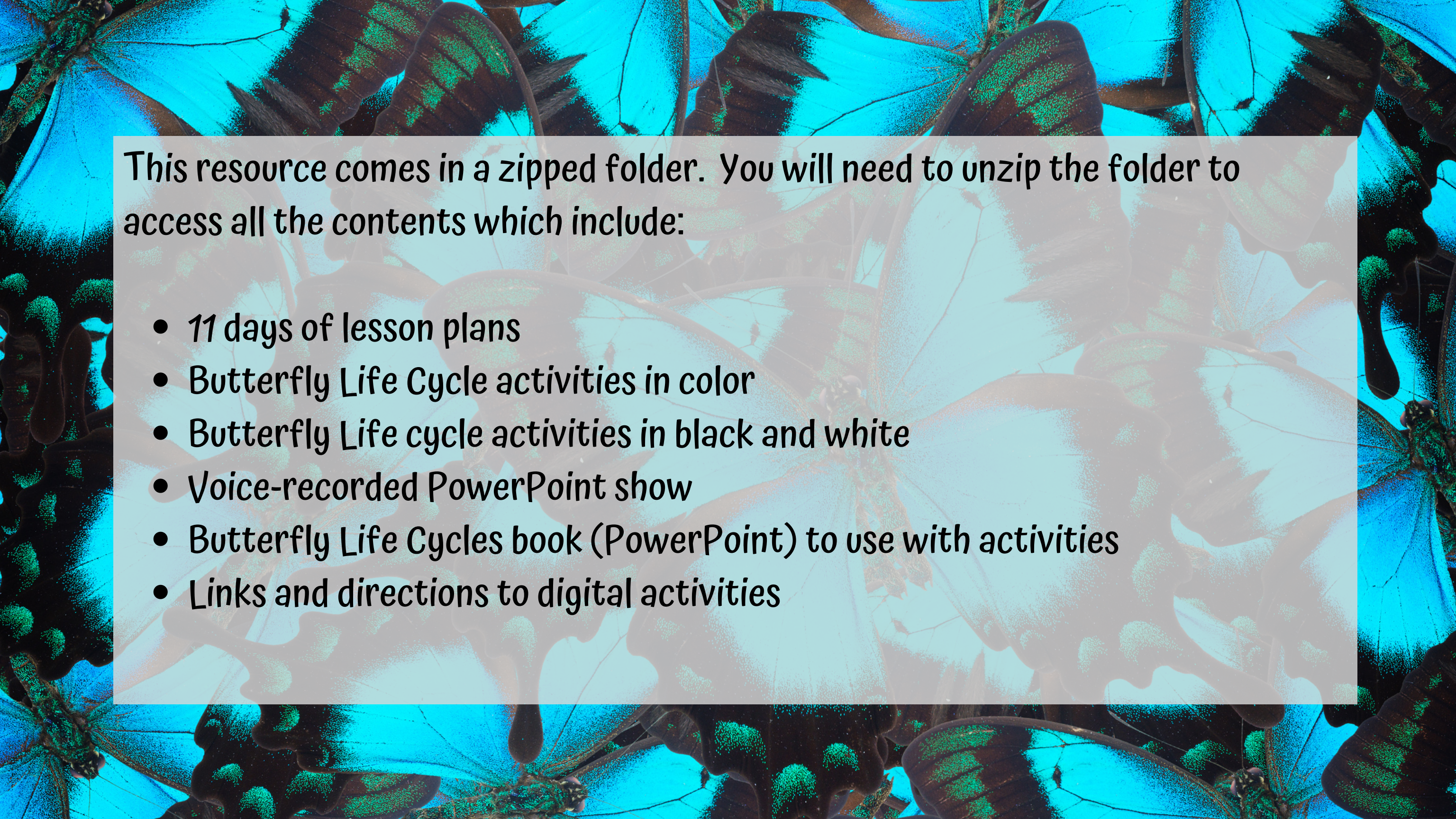
Each activity is set up so students can click and drag answers. No typing is required.



Place pictures in correct order of the life cycle diagram.



The second set of slides uses color for differentiation and extra support for students who may need it. Mix and match slides from both sets to make the perfect set for each student.

The background of the slide is a close-up, artistic photograph of butterfly wings. The wings are a vibrant blue color with intricate black and white patterns, including veins and spots. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the texture and structure of the wings.

This resource comes in a zipped folder. You will need to unzip the folder to access all the contents which include:

- **11 days of lesson plans**
- **Butterfly Life Cycle activities in color**
- **Butterfly Life cycle activities in black and white**
- **Voice-recorded PowerPoint show**
- **Butterfly Life Cycles book (PowerPoint) to use with activities**
- **Links and directions to digital activities**

I also have a unit on animal life cycles that includes

- Amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals

[CLICK HERE](#)

Or, save \$\$ and get the Life Cycle Bundle that includes:

- Butterfly Life cycle
- Animal Life cycle
- Incubating Chicken Eggs

[CLICK HERE](#)