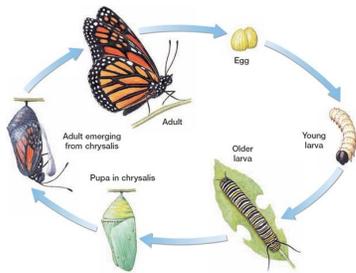


Caterpillars, Bugs and Butterflies

There are about 6–10 million insect species in the world. Insects' life cycles show that they change. This change is called metamorphosis. Complete metamorphosis



has four stages: egg, larva, pupa, and adult. We may recognize this best in the life cycle of a butterfly. This time of year, you may find eggs, caterpillars, chrysalises, or butterflies. If it were a moth,



the life cycle is similar,



except they typically make a cocoon out of silk and hairs instead of a chrysalis. Each is made to camouflage to help protect the adult insect as it develops.



Adult insects have 3 body parts: head, thorax, and abdomen. Their six legs are attached to the thorax. Their mouths have chewing or sucking



parts, depending on what they feed on as an adult.

Many times, insects are referred to as bugs, but not all insects are true bugs.

True bugs would have what appears to be an "X" on their back due to the way their wings overlap.



Stink Bugs, Milkweed

Bugs, and Giant Water Bugs are just a few



examples of true bugs.

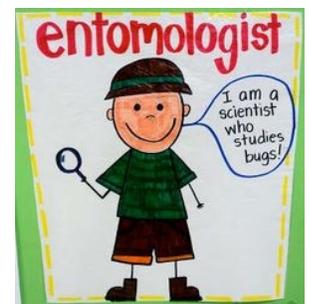
What we call a "ladybug" is actually a Ladybird Beetle. The beetle has hard wing covers that



cover the flight wings. Their favorite foods include aphids, leafhoppers, mites, and other small insects.

Go outside and search for some of these insects:

- Ant
- Butterfly
- Dragonfly or Damselfly
- Ladybird Beetle
- Caterpillar
- Sow Bug or Pill Bug
- Moth
- Bee
- Mosquito
- Leafhopper
- Firefly



Books about Caterpillars, Bugs and Butterflies

Here are some books to learn more about what animals leave behind:

Becoming Butterflies by Anne Rockwell and Meghan Halsey

Butterflies in the Garden by Carol Lerner

A Monarch Butterfly's Life by John Himmelman

Oh no, Woolly Bear! by Patricia McFadden

Bugs Are Insects by Anne Rockwell and Steve Jenkins

A Butterfly is Patient by Diana Hutts Aston

About Insects: A Guide for Children by Cathryn Sill and John Sill

Percival the Plain Little Caterpillar by Helen Brawley

The Crunching Munching Caterpillar by Sheridan Cain

Eco Explorers
Preschool-Kindergarten
Mobile Outreach
4524 East 49th Street
Cuyahoga Heights, OH
(216) 341-1707
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Caterpillars, Bugs and Butterflies Activities and Crafts

Moth Sugar



Ingredients:

3 T. sugar, water, 1 quart plastic jug, old paintbrush, sponge

What to do:

Fill the jug with water, mix sugar into the jug. In later afternoon, use the paintbrush to brush the "moth sugar" on a stump, rock, or fence post. Or soak the sponge and hang it on a tree. Just after dark, go see if you have any visitors.

Helicopter Seed Dragonfly

Paint 2 complete helicopter seeds. Wrap 1 twig with colorful string. Glue the seeds to the wrapped twig. Attach fishing line to hang (optional). Tiny googly eyes would be cute, too!



Water Bottle Firefly

Cut 2 eyes and 6 legs out of black construction paper. Cut 4 wings out of brown paper. Cut a red strip of paper to use just behind the eyes. Twist black and white pipe cleaners together to make antennae. Use an empty water bottle for the body. Tape wings on first, followed by red band, legs, eyes, and antennae (hot glue may work better). Use a glow stick to add light to your firefly. Simply activate the glow stick and place in bottle. Replace cap so you don't lose the glow stick.

Leaf Art Insects

Draw the basic body of an insect. Collect leaves to make the head, thorax, abdomen, and wings.



Activities for Further Learning and Fun

Insect Songs and Poems

 It's an insect not a spider-
It has 6 legs instead of 8-
3 on this side 3 on that side-
and it's crawling on your plate!



The Insect Song

tune of "Head, Shoulders, Knees & Toes" (point to body parts as you sing)

Head, thorax, abdomen, abdomen
Head, thorax, abdomen, abdomen
Eyes, antennae, and maybe some wings
Head, thorax, abdomen, abdomen!



Bee Hive Fingerplay

Here is the bee hive
(Cup hands together)
Where are the bees?
(Peek into hive)
Hidden away where nobody sees.
(Hide hive behind back)
Watch and you'll see them come out of the hive.
(Bring hive back out front)
1...2...3...4...5...BUZZ!
(Open fingers one by one. Fingers become the buzzing bees)

Insect Snacks

Pretzel & Celery Butterfly

Use a celery stick. Spread with cream cheese. Top with 2 mini pretzels along the sides. Place raisins as the head, thorax, and abdomen. Add antennae made of pretzel pieces.



Backyard Bug Snacks

Using the pretzel & celery butterfly, add a caterpillar by skewering some grapes. Add candy eyes and food coloring gel for a mouth. To make a ladybug, use a cracker as a base with a slice of cheese on top. Slice a grape tomato in half, place an olive slice as the head. Then use candy eyes and gel to add spots.



Jello Fruit Cup Bugs

Turn a Jello fruit cup upside down and use a sharpie to add spots and a line to make wings. Add a head with construction paper, googlie eyes, and pipe cleaner antennae.

