

Kupferberg Center for the Arts Presents
Accelerating the Arts: Revelations 2015-2016

TEACHER GUIDE

Butterfly—Story of a Life Cycle

This Teacher Guide is a convenient source of background information, mini-lessons, and activities that coordinate with the performance guide to encourage learning across the curriculum. Most activities can be easily adapted to suit different age groups.

About the Company

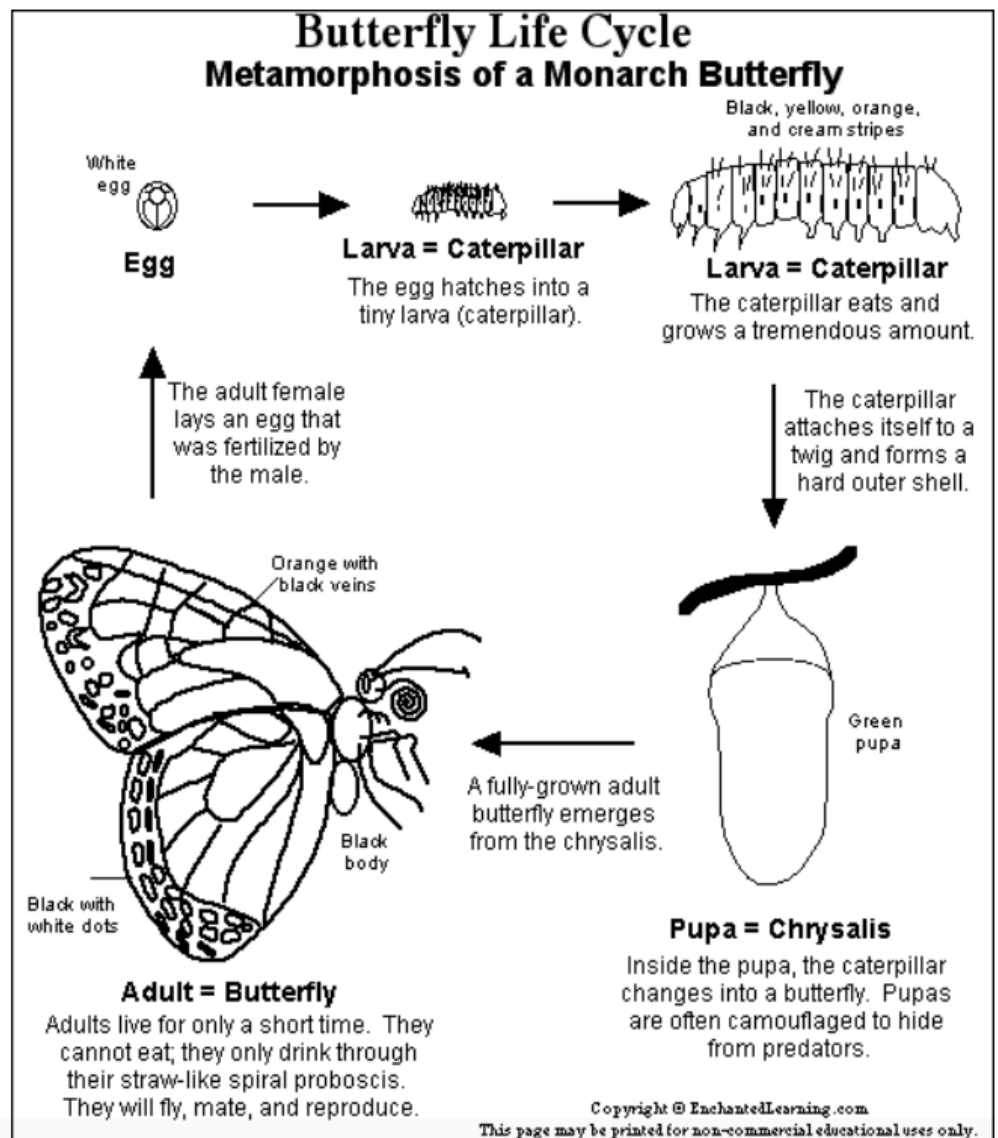
Hudson Vagabond Puppets is a theatrical organization based in Rockland County consisting of professional dancers and actors performing with giant puppets. The troupe performs educational and entertaining puppet theater for children and their families, both in the community and in schools. All performance content is designed to fit into New York State's school curriculum – not just in the arts but also the sciences, social studies, language arts, and literacy. The puppeteers borrow from the traditional Japanese Bunraku style of puppetry. Clad in black, the performers become shadows behind the colorful and larger than life size puppets.

About the Performance

The performance follows Mari, a Monarch Butterfly, as she grows from a tiny egg through her caterpillar state, next making the amazing metamorphosis in the chrysalis, and finally on her incredible 1,500 mile journey to Mexico. With all her insect companions she will learn about her symbiotic relationship with Milkweed. She depends on it for food, a home, and her unique form of defense against predators.

The Monarch Butterfly

Kingdom: Animalia (animals)
Phylum: Anthropoda (animals with jointed legs)
Class: Insecta (insects)
Order: Lepidoptera (butterflies and moths)
Family: Nymphalidae (butterflies with dwarfed front legs)
Subfamily: Danaidae (milkweed butterflies)
Genus & Species: Danaus: Plexippus (monarch butterflies)



Activities:

Create Poetry

Choose one of the following forms of poetry and create an ode to a caterpillar or a butterfly.

- 1- Haiku is a Japanese form of poetry which is usually about nature. The 17-syllable verse is formed by three lines. The first line consists of 5 syllables, the second has 7, and the third has 5.
- 2- Limerick has a highly controlled rhyming pattern. Lines 1, 2 and 5 rhyme; lines 3 and 4 rhyme.
- 3- Couplet contains a pair of lines of poetry that are usually rhymed.
- 4- Diamante is made of descriptive words that form the shape of a diamond. The first line is one word, the second line is two words, the third is three, the fourth is four, the fifth is three, the sixth is two, and the seventh is one. If you center all of the lines, the poem looks like a diamond.

Now help children to write their own acrostic poems or write one together. Children's names are often a good place to start as descriptive words can be generated about the child for each letter in their name.

Create a Shadow Show

The simplest shadow can be made by casting hand shadows against a white wall. By holding small objects, the shadows can become more complex (like pencils that could act as legs for a flamingo).

To create a show, place a stretched sheet in front of a doorway. Place a light about two feet behind the screen with the audience on the opposite side in a dark room. Create and tell a story of the transformation of the caterpillar into the chrysalis and then into a butterfly. Cut out the figures using paper or cardboard. You can create your own colored plastic shadow puppets by doing the following:

- 1- Take a gallon size plastic milk jug.
- 2- Trace the outline of your figure on the jug.
- 3- Cut out the figure.
- 4- Color in your figure using colored sharpies
- 5- Tape a popsicle stick to use as a handle.

Use your imagination to make the story come to life. For example, add a milkweed plant set or a bird searching for food.



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