

**Project FOCUS
Best Lessons
FIRST GRADE**

Title of Lesson: Butterfly Metamorphosis

Theme: Life Science

Unit Number: 6 **Unit Title:** Animal Planet

Performance Standard(s) Covered (enter code):

S1CS4

S1CS5

S1L1

Enduring Standards (objectives of activity):

Habits of Mind

- Asks questions
- Uses numbers to quantify
- Works in a group
- Uses tools to measure and view
- Looks at how parts of things are needed
- Describes and compares using physical attributes
- Observes using senses
- Draws and describes observations

Content (key terms and topics covered):

Butterfly life cycle, metamorphosis, animal growth, insects

Learning Activity (Description in Steps)

Abstract(limit 100 characters): This activity allows students the opportunity to observe and learn about butterfly metamorphosis.

Details: First, the FOCUS student will teach a lesson about metamorphosis.

The students will also be taught how to keep a daily scientific journal. Then, the students will observe the classroom butterfly kit once a day for about three weeks. Each day, students will draw a picture of their changing insects. They can record any observations, and make note of the stage of metamorphosis that the insects are currently in. Near the beginning of these three weeks, books about caterpillars and butterflies can be read to the students. In our classroom, the teacher presented *The Hungry Caterpillar* and several non-fiction metamorphosis books for first-graders. At the conclusion of the metamorphosis process, the students can create a procedural book about the process of metamorphosis, using pictures from the scientific journal to show the different stages of the butterfly life cycle. When the butterflies are ready the class can go outside to see them released into the environment.

Materials Needed (Type and Quantity):

1 Butterfly kit, books about metamorphosis, materials to make journals (1 per kid), materials to make procedural books (1 per kid)

Notes and Tips (suggested changes, alternative methods, cautions):

The metamorphosis process will span about three weeks. One lesson can be devoted to metamorphosis and scientific data recording. Throughout the metamorphosis of their caterpillars, the students can be given about fifteen minutes per day to observe and record the changing condition of the insects. If additional time is available, the FOCUS student or classroom teacher can read books about butterflies to the class. At the conclusion of the process, the students can be given several hours to write a procedural book about metamorphosis.

Living insects will be brought into the classroom. The students should not handle them without the direct supervision of an adult.

The butterfly kit should be ordered a few weeks before the lesson will be taught. The season and temperature should be taken into account when planning to order the caterpillars and to release the butterflies.

Sources/References:

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)