

MAGICAL CHANGES

OVERVIEW

The students will learn about the life cycle of the Monarch Butterfly by memorizing a rhyme and by performing it with body movements.

BACKGROUND

See the background information for the previous chapter "POETRY WITH WINGS."

ACTIVITIES

1. Help the students memorize the following rhyme:

Metamorphosis
*From a small egg a caterpillar is born.
It eats and eats until it's fully grown.
Then it begins to work very soon
spinning and spinning its cocoon.
Soon it will sleep in a slumber so deep.
When springs arrives
a butterfly emerges and begins to exercise.
(Prof. Olga L. Saucedo)*

2. Once they memorize the poem, ask them to act out the various stages as it evolves from an egg, to a caterpillar, to a cocoon and to a butterfly, while they recite the rhyme.

3. Discuss what happened to the egg, the caterpillar, and the cocoon, and what will happen to the butterfly. Explain the process of metamorphosis, a process of change where none of the stages are similar. Explain that this process is common in insects and other animals.

LEVELS

Grades PreK–3

SUBJECTS

Natural Sciences, Language Arts, Art.

CONCEPTS

- Natural beauty, as experienced in forests and other habitats, enhances the quality of human life by providing artistic and spiritual inspiration, as well as recreational and intellectual opportunities.
- As organisms go through their life cycle, maturity, decline and death, their role in the ecosystem changes.

SKILLS

Comprehension, Memorization, Analysis, Similarities and Differences, Psychomotor Development, Creativity.

OBJECTIVES

The students will learn about the life cycle of the Monarch Butterfly using a rhyme.

MATERIALS

Paper and crayons for drawing, wooden clothes pins, orange crepe paper, cotton balls, popsicle sticks, pipe cleaners, egg container, play-doh.

TIME REQUIRED

1 hour

4. With pictures, compare the development of the Monarch Butterfly with your own development and discuss the following:

- In what way are they alike?
- In what way are they different?
- Where was the butterfly born?
- Where were the students born?

Introduce the concept of oviparous and viviparous and determine which animals belong to each category.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

1. Based on the information they now have on the life cycle of the Monarch Butterfly, ask them to write a story and then act it out or draw it.

2. Have the students practice the new vocabulary: caterpillar, metamorphosis, cocoon, change, larva, etc.

3. With art materials, ask the students to illustrate the butterfly's metamorphosis and set up an exhibit of the students' work.