

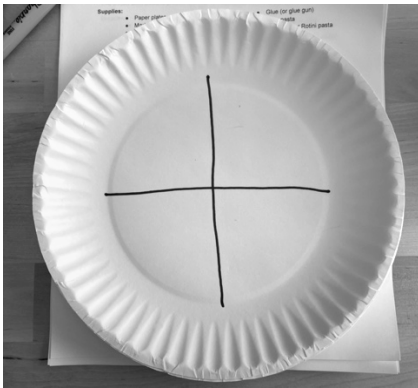
Pasta Butterfly Metamorphosis

Make a fun diagram of butterfly metamorphosis with supplies from around your house!

Supplies:

- Paper plates, one per child
- Markers (sharpie or colored)
- Scissors
- Green paper or magazines
- Glue or glue gun
- Rotini pasta
- Small shell pasta
- Bowtie pasta
- Orzo Pasta (or you can substitute beans)
- Optional: leaves and sticks

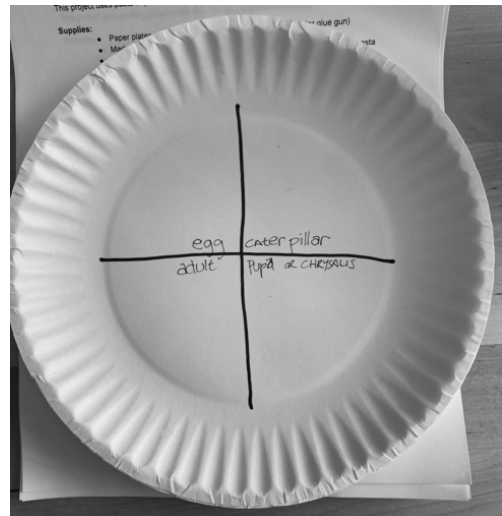
1. Draw two perpendicular lines across the plate:



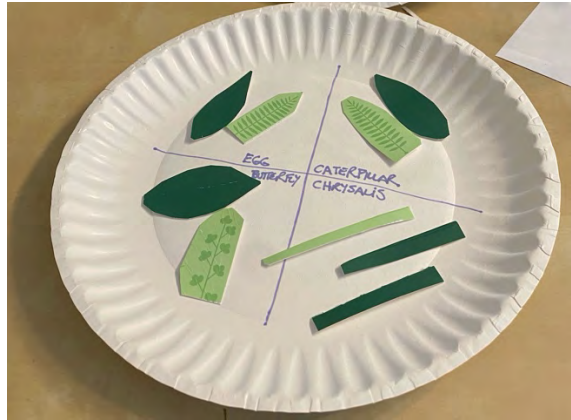
2. Label each section with the stages of a butterfly:

1. Egg
2. Caterpillar
3. Chrysalis
4. Butterfly

It's a lot easier to write this now than after you've glued the pasta on!



- Cut leaf shapes out of green paper, OR use real leaves and sticks, or a combination of all of these. Old magazines also have nice green photos that can be cut up for leaves. Get Creative!



- Glue your leaves in each of the 4 quarters of the plate.
- Add your “butterflies”
 - Egg: glue orzo pasta, or small beans, to the leaf in the Egg section
 - Caterpillar: Use spiral or rotini pasta for the caterpillar
 - Chrysalis: Shell pasta
 - Butterfly: Bow tie pasta; draw in antennae for your butterfly with a marker.

- Talk about it! While glue is drying, this is a great time to review metamorphosis with your child. Ask them to explain to you what is happening in each stage of the butterfly’s life, starting with the eggs.

The chrysalis, or pupa, is a “resting stage”; it’s the caterpillar changing its body completely to become a butterfly. Because it isn’t very active, a lot of times kids think it’s dead. Nope! Just completely making a new body.

It’s fun to ask kids what they think it would be like if humans had to go through metamorphosis to become a grown up.

Would a teenager be a chrysalis? What if they just spent all of high school sleeping?



Learn more about insect development here:

https://extension.entm.purdue.edu/401Book/default.php?page=insect_development

This craft is adapted from one by Laura Murray:

<https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/articles/teaching-content/butterfly-life-cycle-plate-craft/>