

Butterfly days

The butterfly
Lays eggs like tiny pearls,
Hides them away in secret places.

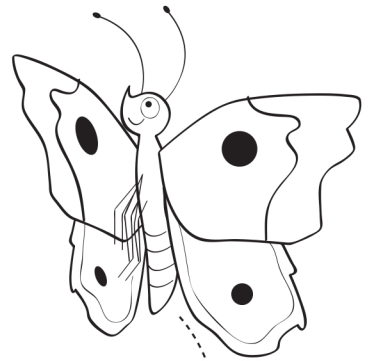
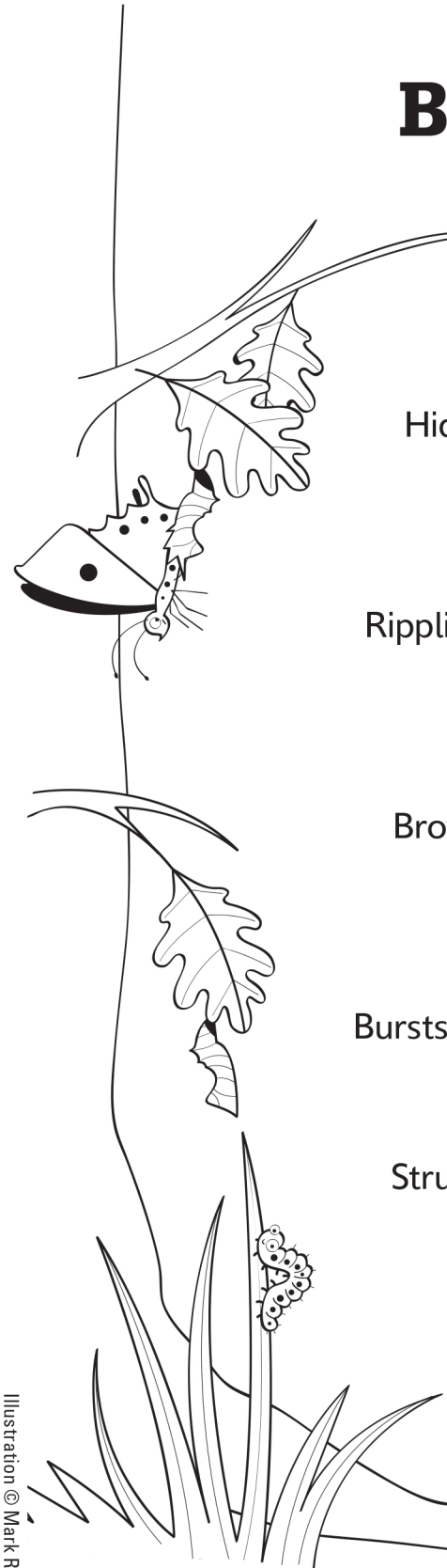
The egg
Turns into a caterpillar,
Rippling and green as summer grasses.

The caterpillar
Becomes a papery pupa,
Brown and dry like an autumn leaf.

The pupa
Hangs upside down,
Bursts open as a new butterfly emerges.

The butterfly
Struggles, dries its patchwork wings
And flies towards the sun.

by Moira Andrew



Teachers' notes

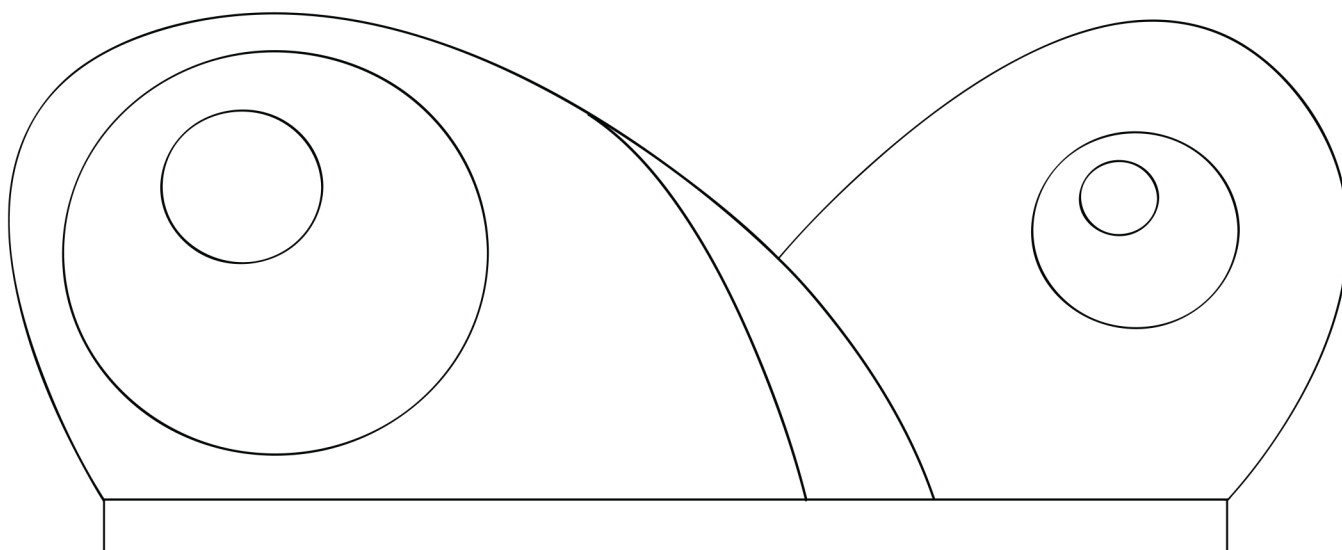
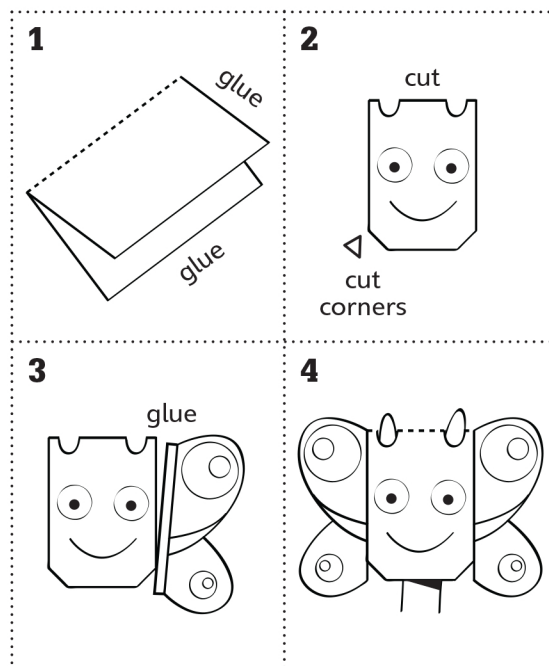
Make an enlarged copy of the poem and read it aloud to the class. Discuss the illustrations and the four different life-cycle stages, from tiny egg to an emerging butterfly.

Butterfly hand puppet

You will need

A4 sheet of paper; two butterfly wings (photocopy template below); wax crayons or felt-tipped pens; child scissors; glue stick.

- 1 Fold the A4 sheet in half. Glue the edges of the folded sheet to make a little bag. On the front, draw the butterfly's eyes and a smiley mouth.
- 2 Cut two slits in the top of the bag, big enough to poke your fingers through. Cut off the corners at the bottom.
- 3 On both of the butterfly wings, colour in the same pattern exactly. Cut them out and glue the wings on either side of the bag.
- 4 Put your hand inside the puppet, poking two fingers through the holes for the butterfly's feelers. Make your butterfly soar and fly.



Teachers' notes

You may need to help the children with the initial folding and sticking. Look at pictures of butterflies in information books and on the internet. Focus the children's attention on the symmetry of the butterfly's wings, so that they see how to make an exact copy of the pattern.

Activities devised by Moira Andrew.

Butterfly life cycle

Stage 1

Butterfly eggs are like _____

Stage

A caterpillar is like _____

Stage

A pupa is like _____

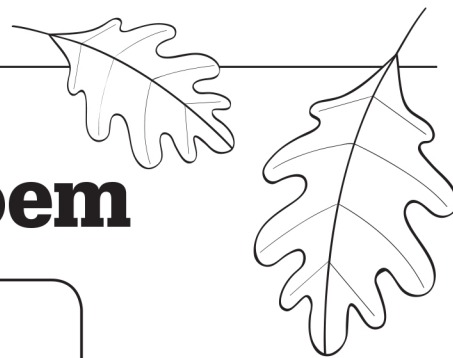
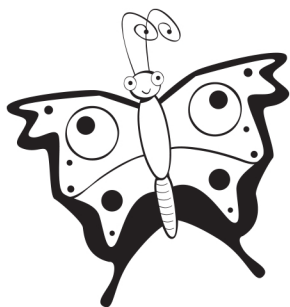
Stage

A butterfly is like a _____

Teachers' notes

You will need: enlarged copy of the poem **Butterfly days**; pencils; coloured pencils. Read the poem 'Butterfly days' out loud and give the children time to think about it. Talk about the four stages in the butterfly's life with the 'eggs' stage as number one. Next, use arrows to show the progression, numbering the other stages of the life cycle two, three and four.

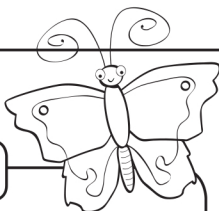
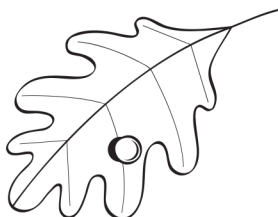
Invite the children to write down what they think eggs are like, a caterpillar is like and so on, in the spaces provided. Ask questions such as *What does a butterfly's wings look like?* (a rainbow, a patchwork quilt, a flower garden). Encourage the children to give imaginative answers. Fill in the spaces with similes taken from the poem or with new ideas and draw accompanying pictures.



My butterfly poem

The butterfly

Lays eggs like _____



The egg

Turns into a _____

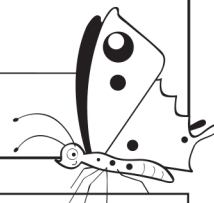
The caterpillar

Turns into a _____

The pupa

Turns into a _____

The butterfly



Teachers' notes

You will need: pencils; enlarged copy of **Butterfly days poem**; coloured pencils; whiteboard.

Read the poem 'Butterfly days', giving the children time to think about it when you are finished. Show the enlarged copy of the poem, so that everyone can see. Encourage the children to fill in the spaces by asking questions such as *Lays eggs like what?* (little beads, teardrops, seashells), *The caterpillar turns into what?* and so on.

Scribe the children's suggestions on to the whiteboard. Follow this pattern for the subsequent verses, helping the children to shape new poems based on the original.

Activities devised by Moira Andrew.