

HomeTalk

thoughtful conversations for families and schools

Let's talk about...

Life Cycles

compiled by *Dulcinea Norton-Morris* <https://magicalmess.weebly.com/beautiful-thinking.html>



Photo by Stephanie LeBlanc on Unsplash

Note to parents/carers and teachers

This pack contains links to external websites. Whilst we take every care to make sure these are suitable, you may want to check the content before showing them to children.



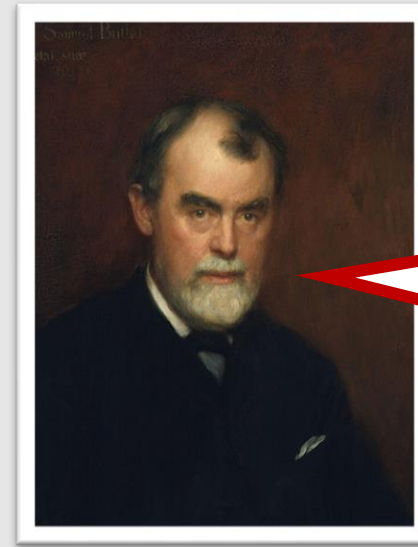
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Quotes about life cycles

I bet the tadpole and the caterpillar still feel the same, even when they're jumping and flying, swimming and floating.



Holly Smale
author of the Geek Girl series



Samuel Butler
poet

A hen is only an egg's way of making another egg.

Time can do all sorts of things... It can turn... seeds into flowers and tadpoles into frogs, caterpillars into cocoons, and cocoons into butterflies.

Alex Shearer
novelist and scriptwriter

Thinking about life cycles

Caring thinking

How can we protect plants and animals when they are at delicate stages of their life cycles – egg, seed, chrysalis, cocoon etc?

Collaborative thinking

Would we be able to convince everybody in the world to plant one tree seed each?



Creative thinking

Could you design a beautiful and colourful wildflower garden for local butterflies?

Critical thinking

Do humans help or hinder life cycles?

A tadpole has grown back legs. What will happen next?



Think **AHEAD**

Have you ever grown something from a seed?



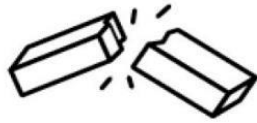
Think **BACK**

Can you find out the ways in which moths and butterflies are the same?



CONNECT

How is the life cycle of a human different to the life cycle of a frog?

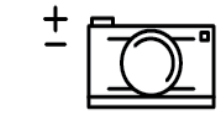


DIVIDE

Go on a walk and look for the different signs and types of life cycles you can see.



LISTEN/LOOK



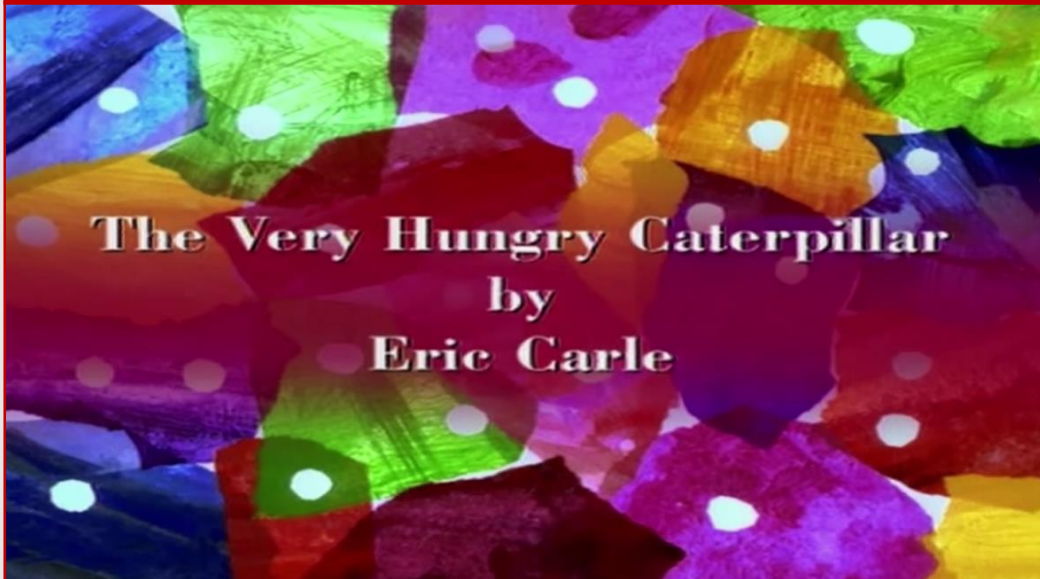
ZOOM (in/out)

Write a list of all of the different things that change form during their life.

Learn about the anatomy of a flower.

Discussion suggestions (age 3 - 5)

Stimulus



https://youtu.be/kMjTKNoZn_o

The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle

In this video we learn about the life cycle of a butterfly.

Talking Points

- Do you think the butterfly still feels the same as when it was a caterpillar?
- Would you rather be a caterpillar or a butterfly? Why?
- In this story the author says “cocoon” but a butterfly comes out of a “chrysalis” and a moth comes out of a “cocoon”. How important is it to use the right word in a story?

Activities

- Learn about symmetry and make a symmetrical butterfly picture.
- Can you make a leaf, egg, caterpillar, chrysalis and cocoon out of play dough?

Discussion suggestions (age 6 - 9)

Stimulus



<https://youtu.be/4dQllcJZ68c>

Seeds Move by Robin Page

In this video we find out lots of different ways that seeds can move.

Talking Points

- Which method looked the most fun way for a seed to move?
- Which way of moving do you think would make a seed go the furthest?
- If you were a seed, which way of moving would you not choose? Why?

Activities

- Can you make a picture of a flower using sticks and stones?
- Do a seed experiment – throw some wildflower seeds as far as you can and see where they grow.
- Investigate the different types of fruit and vegetable seeds and look at the differences.

Discussion suggestions (age 10+)

Stimulus



<https://youtu.be/vOz9hBX8kkM>

It is the age old question: Which came first – the chicken or the egg?

Talking Points

- Scientists think they have now decided which came first. Do you think that one day scientists will be able to answer every question?
- Which do you think came first? The chicken or the egg? Do you agree with what the video said?
- Which came first – the seed or the tree?

Activity

- Chickens, butterflies and frogs all come from eggs. Using the Thinking Move, CONNECT, how many other similarities can you find? How many differences (DIVIDE)?
- Did you find more similarities or more differences?

➤ More about HomeTalk, including previous editions

➤ Parent Talk Moves – tips for great conversations with your children

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Training opportunities for teachers, support staff and parents

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Teaching that puts more thinking into learning

- Introduces you to **P4C Plus** and builds your skills over the first year of practice
- Equips you with a range of skills to use in P4C inquiries and throughout the curriculum
- Includes premium resources and teacher guide

Thinking Moves A – Z course (6hrs)

Making metacognition simple across the curriculum

- Shows you how **Thinking Moves** can enhance thinking in any subject, as well as in P4C inquiries
- Gives you practical guidance on how to embed Thinking Moves into learning
- Includes premium resources and handbook

Both courses available online or face-to-face, for individuals or whole-school teams

See <https://dialogueworks.co.uk/training/> for upcoming courses

Contact enquiries@dialogueworks.co.uk for bookings or more information