

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC Young Explorers!

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Dear Educator:

April is the perfect time for new beginnings. So it seems appropriate that this is my first issue at the helm of YOUNG EXPLORER. I am delighted to begin this new chapter of my career, helping children discover the joy of wonder-driven reading.

My personal and professional passion can be summed up in a single word—*reading*.

From teaching in California to creating engaging curriculum and research-based professional development materials, my career has focused on the vital work of literacy.

Both NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC and I have high standards for classroom materials, and I know you do too. In this issue your students will find gateways into accessible nonfiction with rich science content.

In “A Butterfly Is Born” children will explore the amazing life cycle of a butterfly. After reading the story together, you can use pages 12-13 to review the different stages in a butterfly’s life. “Birds Begin As Eggs” introduces children to other important science concepts and provides an excellent opportunity for comparing and contrasting animal traits and behaviors. Finally, this month’s poem, “April Showers,” reinforces the importance of a precious natural resource—rainwater.

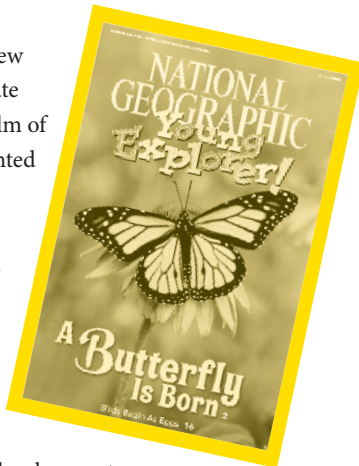
You can display the poster and use it as a springboard for class discussion. Watch your students’ ideas take flight!

I look forward to leading your Young Explorers on further adventures. Please renew your subscriptions to keep the excitement going.

Sincerely yours,



Jacalyn Mahler
Editor in Chief



In This Issue

A BUTTERFLY IS BORN

Curriculum Connections

Reading • Science • Math

Standards Correlations: Language Arts

- Compare and contrast
- Preview and predict
- Note details
- Visualize
- Sequence
- Phonemic awareness

Standards Correlations: Science

- Animal life cycles
- Growth and development

Literacy Skills

- Long vowel sounds
- Reading poetry

Math Content Area

- Graphing
- Greater or less than

Answer Key

My Butterfly Words • page 4

1. butterfly 2. egg 3. caterpillar 4. chrysalis

Fly into Y • page 5

Long i: sky, butterfly **Long e:** family, fuzzy, silly, hungry

A Butterfly Grows Up • page 6

For the correct life cycle sequence, please see the diagram on pages 12-13.

Birds and Eggs • page 7

1. keep her eggs warm 2. food 3. build their own nest

How Many Eggs? • page 8

1. emu — 8 2. robin — 4 3. blue jay — 6

Next Issue

Sept. Oct. Nov./Dec. Jan./Feb. Mar. Apr. **May**

Stories: Honeybees, Beach Life
Skills: Make Predictions, Cause and Effect, Note Details

A Butterfly Is Born

High-Frequency Words: are, away, father, from, keeps, mother

Content Words: born, butterfly, caterpillar, changes, chrysalis, egg, grow, hatch, lay, nest

Lesson 1 PP. 2-13, 22

A Butterfly Is Born

Building Background

- Tell children that they are going to learn about butterflies. Use Words to Explore (page 22) to spark a discussion about what children already know and want to learn about butterflies.

Record the information in a K-W-L chart. Tell children that you will add to the chart after you read the story.

Before Reading

- Read aloud the title and introduction. Invite children to page through the story and predict what they will learn. (*How butterflies change as they grow*)

Read and Discuss

- Read the story aloud, pausing from time to time to recap the information. After reading, ask children: Did you learn what you wanted to learn?
- As you help children recall the stages of the butterfly's life cycle described on pages 12-13, fill in the last column of the K-W-L chart.

After Reading

- Pairs of children can work together on the work sheet (page 4) and then read aloud their completed sentences.
- Before children complete the Fly Into Y work sheet (page 5), tell them to write a word in each egg. They should cut and group the words by the ending sound.

Lesson 2 PP. 2-13

A Butterfly Is Born

Before Reading

- Explain that good readers make pictures in their minds as they read. This helps them enjoy the story and remember new information.

Reread and Discuss

- Have children listen as you reread the story, two pages at a time. (Children's copies should be closed for this rereading.)
- Encourage them to imagine (visualize) the changes that the butterfly goes through as though they were seeing scenes from a movie.
- Model using the strategy. For example, after you read pages 6-7, say: When I read this I pictured a hungry caterpillar. I can see it munching on a plant. The caterpillar has bright yellow and black stripes. The more it eats, the bigger it gets.
- After you read each section, have children describe what they visualized.

After Reading

- Turn to pages 12-13. Guide children in using A Butterfly Grows Up to explain the life cycle of the butterfly. Then have them complete the butterfly life cycle work sheet (page 6). Discuss what each picture shows before children begin to place the pictures in sequence.

Reinforcing Decoding Skills

Initial Consonant Blends: fl (flowers);
gr (grows); pl (plant)

Final Consonant Blends: nt
(different, front, plant)

Digraphs: ch (changes); ng (along,
hang, spring, strong, wings); tch
(hatch); th (the, they)

Lesson 3 PP. 16-21, 23

Birds Begin As Eggs

Building Background

- Tell children they will learn about birds. Introduce the Words to Explore (page 23) and ask children to share what they already know about birds.

Before Reading

- Explain that good readers pay attention to important details in a story to help them understand what they are reading.
- Begin a concept map for each of the three birds. Explain that you will add to these maps after reading.

Read and Discuss

- Read the story aloud. Then ask children to share the details they remember while you fill in the concept map for each bird.
- Have children look back through the story to make sure that they have noted all the details. (*Blue jays lay spotted eggs; both parents care for eggs. Emus lay dark green eggs; father cares for eggs. Robin lays blue eggs; both parents care for eggs. Number of eggs vary from bird to bird.*)

After Reading

- Have children read the story “Birds and Eggs” on the work sheet (page 7) and answer the questions.

Lesson 4 PP. 16-21

Birds Begin As Eggs

Before Reading

- Explain that good readers compare and contrast details in a story to help them better understand the story.
- Start a compare/contrast chart. Tell children that after rereading the story, you will fill in the details about how the birds are alike and how they are different. They should be noting details while you are rereading the story so that they can help you.

Reread and Discuss

- Have children echo the words as you read.
- After reading, return to the compare/contrast chart and ask children: How are the birds alike? (*They all lay eggs; They keep the eggs warm; Eggs hatch.*) How are the birds different? (*Their eggs are different colors and sizes; The birds are different colors and sizes; There are different numbers of eggs in each nest; There are different numbers of babies.*)

After Reading

- Explain to children that a graph is another way to note details from the story. Introduce the graphing work sheet (page 8). Model how to fill out the chart with the first bird. Children can complete the rest of the graph independently.

Name: _____

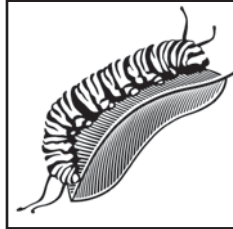
My Butterfly Words

Write the word that completes each sentence.

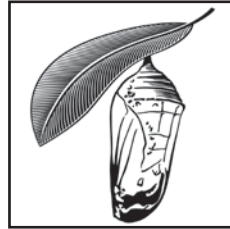
Word Bank



butterfly



caterpillar



chrysalis



egg

1. A _____ has wings.

2. A butterfly lays an _____ on a plant.

3. A _____ looks like it has two heads.

4. A caterpillar makes a _____.

Name: _____



Fly into Y

At the end of a word, the letter **y** can sound like long **i** or long **e**.

Word Bank

sky

fuzzy

family

silly

butterfly

hungry



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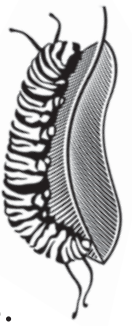
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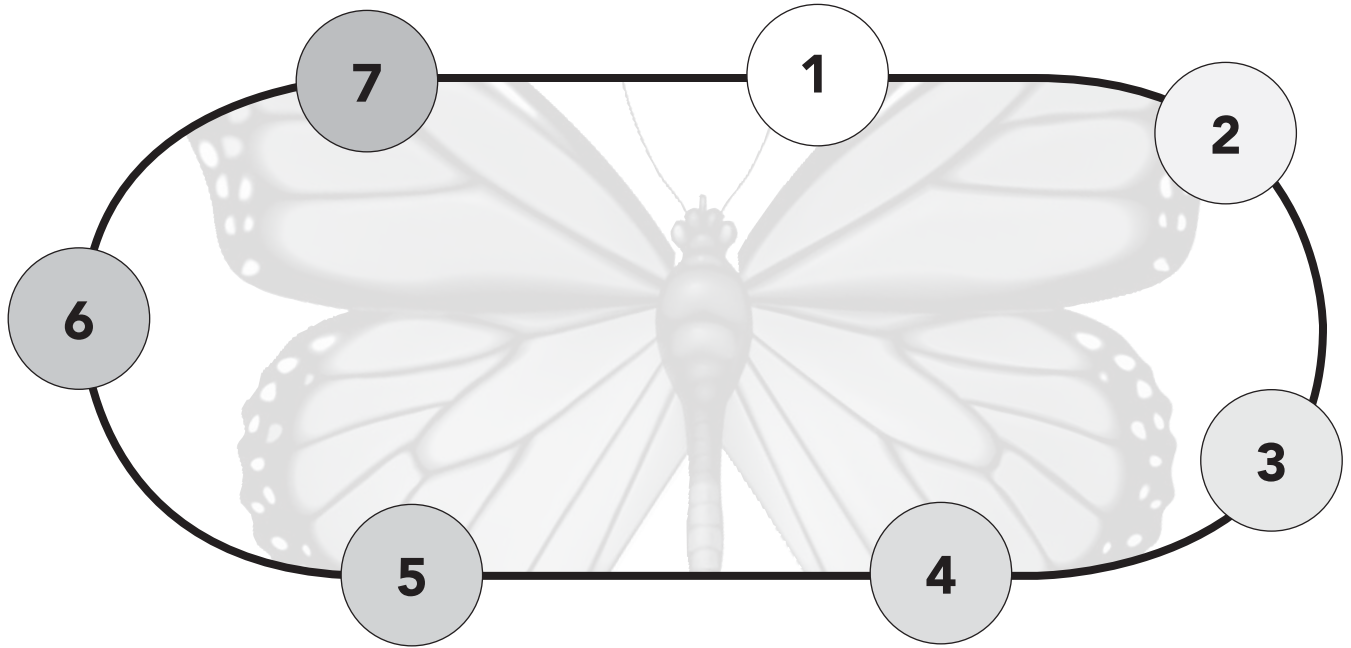
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Name: _____



A Butterfly Grows Up

How does a butterfly grow? Show how it changes.



Name: _____

Birds and Eggs



Read the story. Then answer the questions.

Mama Robin lays her eggs in the nest. Her job is to keep them warm until they hatch. One at a time, the eggs hatch. The babies are hungry. Both mother and father bring them food. The babies grow and fly away. It is now time to build their own nests.

1. What is Mama Robin's job?

2. What do the babies need after they hatch?

3. What do the birds do when they leave their nests?

Name: _____



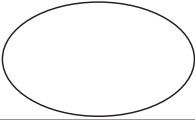
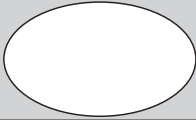
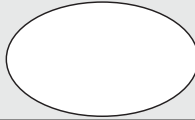
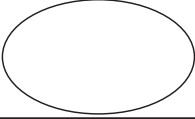
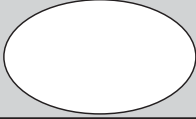
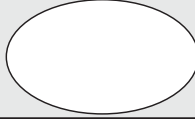
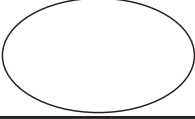

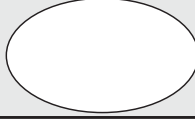
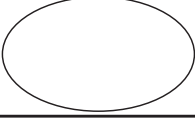

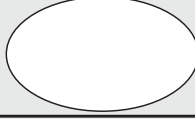



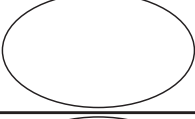


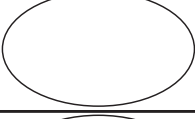

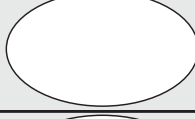



How Many Eggs?

Think about “Birds Begin As Eggs.” Show how many eggs were in each bird’s nest. Color one row for each bird’s egg.

Emu

Robin

Blue Jay

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Which bird has the most eggs? _____

Which bird has the fewest eggs? _____