

POLLINATOR POWER

*Grades 1 - 2, Science and Technology
Prepared for Monarch Mayhem 2020*

OVERVIEW & PURPOSE

Students will learn about the needs of pollinating animals as well as the butterfly life cycle by listening to a short presentation and then completing an activity.

UNIT: Needs and characteristics of living things, changes in animals.

Estimated time to complete: 45 minutes.

OBJECTIVES

1. Students are introduced to the concept of the life cycle of butterflies.
2. Students will understand the three needs for life: food, water and shelter.

MATERIALS NEEDED

1. Butterfly life cycle activity sheet.
2. Colour me in butterfly and flower page.
3. Pollinator-inspired snacks.
4. Pencil crayons.
5. A computer and the PowerPoint presentation.

VERIFICATION

Steps to check for student understanding

1. Students will create a drawing of each part of a butterfly's life cycle.
2. Students will colour in the butterfly and flower page.

PRESENTATION

You will have received the PowerPoint presentation 'Pollinator Power' via email. You can also download this at: monarchmayhem.ca/resources. The presentation has been created as a visual aid for this lesson.

Today students are going to think about the life cycle of butterflies and what they need to live. Start by telling students that butterflies go through four stages in their life. Explain that their needs change as they age.

Butterflies start their life as an egg. The eggs are laid on the underside of leaves. The egg hatches and out comes a caterpillar. Caterpillars are always hungry and will eat leaves. When the caterpillar has eaten enough, it will find a safe place away from animals that think butterflies are a tasty snack, to make a chrysalis. Students can find chrysalis' under leaves or branches but it's important not to disturb them. The caterpillar is changing in the chrysalis. It is growing wings and a long tongue that it will use to eat sugar (nectar) from flowers. It will come out of the chrysalis as a butterfly. Many kinds of butterflies live in Canada for the spring, summer and fall where they eat nectar from flowers. They drink water from bird baths, ponds and puddles. Some butterflies fly south for the winter while others sleep (hibernate) because there isn't anymore to eat.

Ask students what they think butterflies need to live and it's okay if they get stumped. The answer is: food, water and shelter.

ACTIVITY

Hand out the two activity sheets to be completed and pollinator-inspired snacks.

The first activity asks students to draw each part of a butterfly's life cycle. These are: egg, caterpillar, chrysalis and butterfly. You may need extra paper if the activity sheet isn't large enough for the students to complete their drawings.

The second activity is a butterfly and flower colouring page. This is a good time to remind students that butterflies eat the sugary nectar from flowers.

For students that finish the activity quickly and want to consider the points learnt more deeply, they can be asked to turn the page over and draw a landscape that has all three things butterflies need to live: a place to sleep, water to drink and food to eat.