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## The Butterfly Question

### *How do caterpillars become butterflies?*

In this episode we discover that butterflies begin life as a tiny egg. They hatch as a caterpillar and spend a lot of time eating and growing. When they're fully grown the caterpillar forms a protective shell called a pupa or chrysalis. Inside the pupa the caterpillar turns into a goo then it rebuilds itself into a butterfly. This is called metamorphosis. When the butterfly breaks out it has wings and can fly. And that's how caterpillars become butterflies.

### Wonder some more ...

1. What do caterpillars eat?
2. How many legs do they have?
3. What is a pupa?
4. Which other insects go through metamorphosis?
5. How many wings do butterflies have?
6. How do butterflies use their antennae?



### Time to explore...

- **MAKE A BUTTERFLY LIFE CYCLE MODEL:** Investigate the life cycle of a butterfly by watching short, time lapse videos of caterpillar metamorphosis. Then create a 2D model to visually represent the four stages of the life cycle (eggs, caterpillar, pupas and butterfly) by scrunching, cutting and pasting craft materials (coloured tissue paper, pipe cleaners, small twigs, fallen leaves and glue) onto a segmented paper plate.
- **CREATE STAINED GLASS WINDOW BUTTERFLIES:** Develop children's mathematical understandings about bilateral symmetry by creating butterfly patterns. Cut out a butterfly shape from black paper and fold in half. Invite children to use craft cutters to punch shapes/holes in the wings, paste coloured cellophane strips on the back, and display on a window.



Willow

### Read and wonder...

- *The Butterfly Garden* (2020) by Michael Torres & Fern Martins
- *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* (1994) by Eric Carle
- *Slow Down* (2020) by Rachel Williams & Freya Hartas

Link to EYLF Learning Outcomes including 4.1, 4.2, 5.3 and 5.4.

