

The Metamorphosis Game

Roll a '1' to colour the eggs

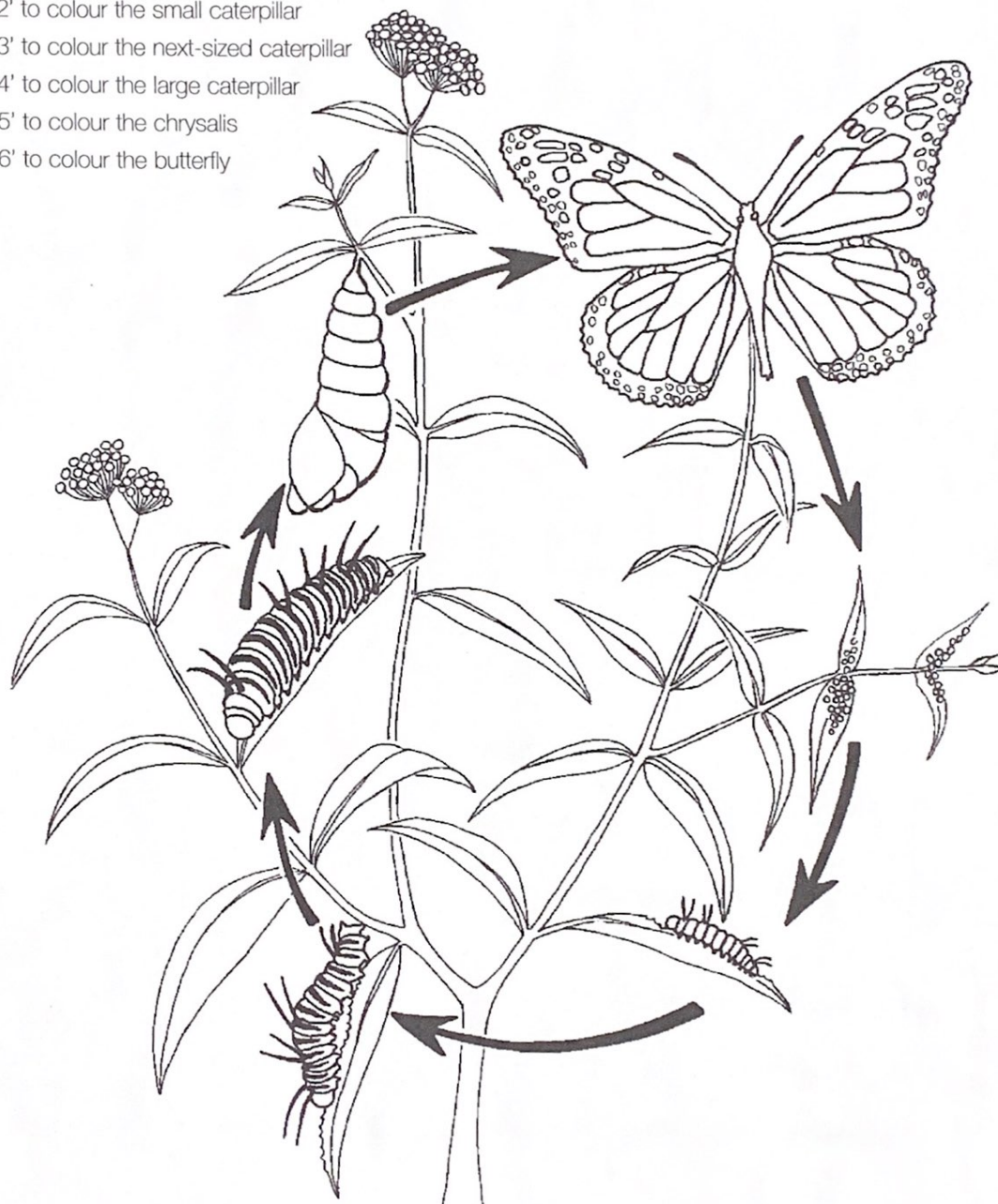
Roll a '2' to colour the small caterpillar

Roll a '3' to colour the next-sized caterpillar

Roll a '4' to colour the large caterpillar

Roll a '5' to colour the chrysalis

Roll a '6' to colour the butterfly



How are plants important in the life cycle of the butterfly?

Colour the plant when you have finished the game.

Bugs



A bug's story

In this activity students discover the life stages of some insects and create the environment in which these life cycles are completed.

Information for teachers

Insects undergo complete or incomplete metamorphosis. The lifecycles of butterflies and beetles are examples of complete metamorphosis, involving larval, pupal and adult stages. During incomplete metamorphosis the young (nymphs) are similar to the adult and grow to adulthood through a series of moults. The lifecycles of leafhoppers and stick insects are examples of incomplete metamorphosis.

You will need

A copy of the diving beetle or dragonfly lifecycle for each student. (Copies of *A Diving Beetle's Story* and *A Dragonfly's World* are provided on the following pages.)

What to do

Review the lifecycle of a common insect such as a butterfly.

Discuss the concept of metamorphosis (changing shape). The *Metamorphosis Game* will help to consolidate this process.

Introduce students to illustrations of the dragonfly and diving beetle lifecycles.

Discuss aspects of the environment in which these creatures live, including plants, shelter, food sources and predators. Be sure to include the impact of human activity.

Provide each student with a copy of the dragonfly or diving beetle lifecycle. Have them add the additional things that are important to this animal's environment. Information about predators and food can be found in the information section of this website.

Following on with drama and story writing

Act out the process of metamorphosis of a butterfly. Write a script, appoint a narrator, make costumes, and add some excitement by including predators, such as spiders, wasps, lizards and birds.

After rehearsals, videotape your performance.

Write a class story of the life-cycle of a favourite insect. Good examples of the style of these stories can be found in picture storybooks from the library.

Three examples are:

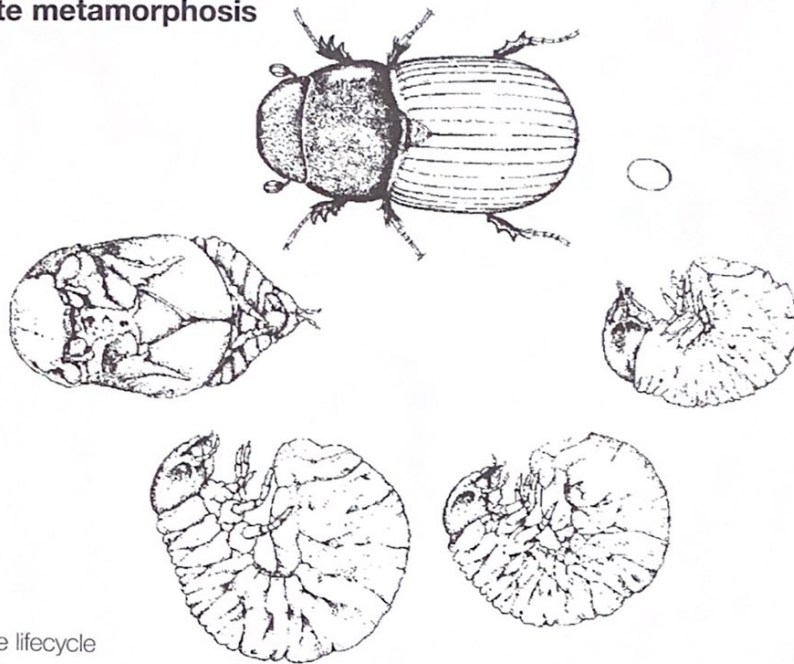
The Very Ordinary Caterpillar by Gary Fleming. This Australian publication tells an interesting story about the butterfly life cycle.

The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle. An old favourite that tells the story of a caterpillar eating its way to become a butterfly.

Butterfly Kiss by Vicki Churchill and Charles Fuge. A story telling of a butterfly's search for 'butterfly food'.

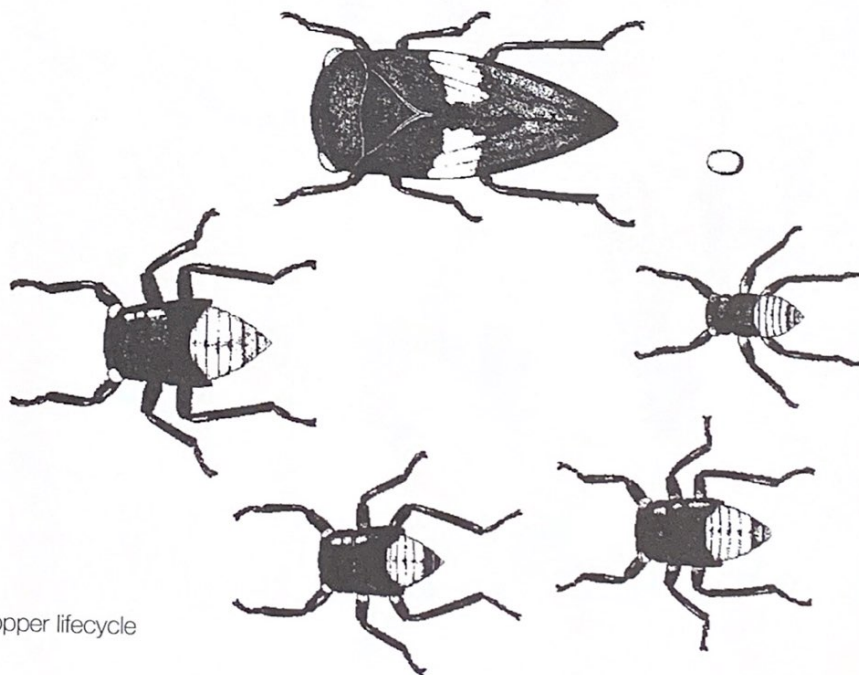
Bugs

Complete metamorphosis



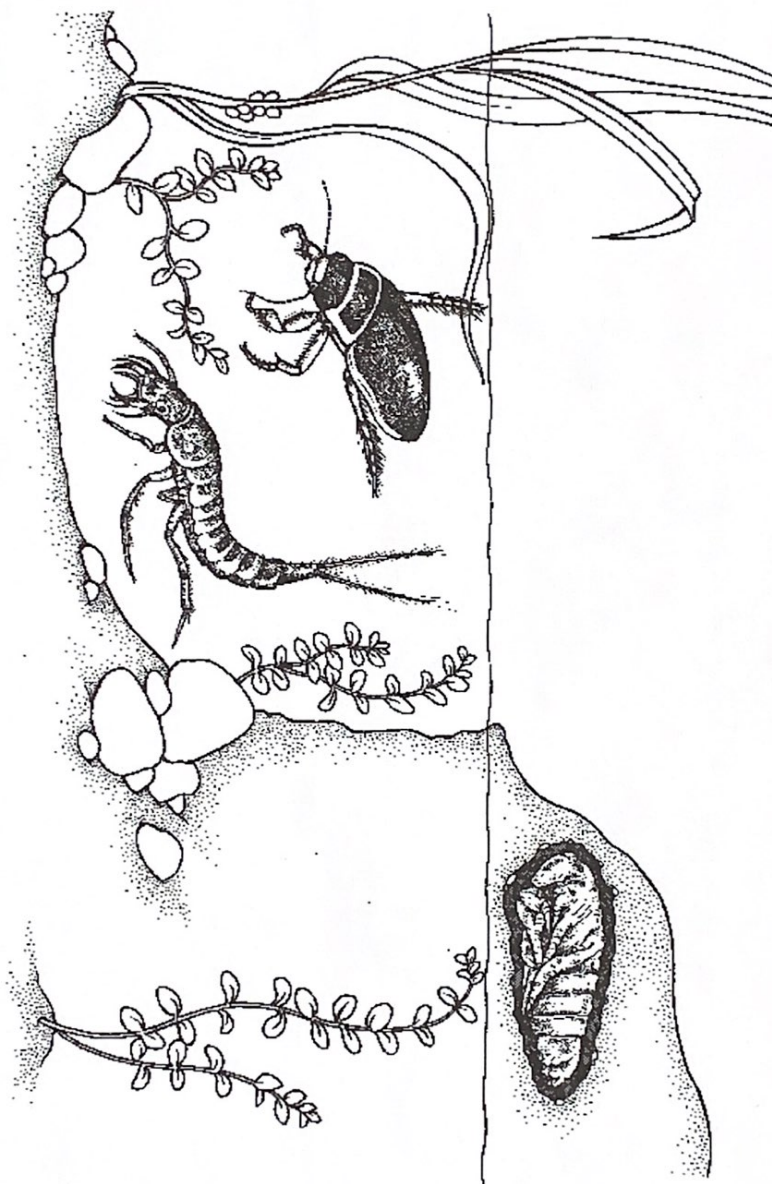
Dung Beetle lifecycle

Incomplete metamorphosis



Leafhopper lifecycle

A Diving Beetle's story





A Dragonfly's world

