

Summer Block 4

Growing up

Small steps

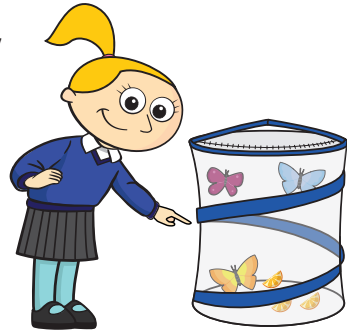
Step 1

Butterfly diary

Key resources

Step 1 – Butterfly diary

- reusable butterfly hatching kit, from previous Growing up block (Summer Block 2)
- fresh fruit



Butterfly diary

Notes and guidance

In this small step, children record their first-hand observations of the life cycle of a butterfly. Children should have had the opportunity to observe the life cycle of a butterfly directly with a butterfly kit, so they could observe how a caterpillar changes and develops over time. The hatching kit should have been set up during Step 5 of the previous Growing up block to allow time for the children to observe and record their findings. This can take approximately four weeks.

Children should apply their understanding of life cycles from the previous blocks. Children should recall that the life cycle of a butterfly consists of egg, caterpillar, pupa and butterfly. They should use these terms when describing their observations.

Things to look out for

- As caterpillars and butterflies look so different, children may think that these are two separate animals.
- Allow approximately four weeks' hatching time before this step.
- Hatching kits should be placed where children can observe but not touch, as this may impact on the hatching process.

Key questions

- What is the first stage in the life cycle of a butterfly?
- What happens to the caterpillar?
- Where does the butterfly come from?
- How long does the life cycle of a butterfly take?
- Is this similar/different to other animals?
- How are the life cycles of a butterfly and an amphibian similar?
- How are the life cycles of a butterfly and a mammal different?

Enquiry question

- Are there patterns between the life cycles of different animals?

National curriculum links

- Notice that animals, including humans, have offspring which grow into adults.
- **Working scientifically** – Observing closely, using simple equipment.

Butterfly diary

Key vocabulary

- **life cycle** – the stages a living thing goes through



- **egg** – contains the offspring of birds, amphibians, reptiles and most insects



- **caterpillar** – the stage after hatching from an egg



- **pupa** – the stage when the caterpillar forms a hard case and changes into a butterfly



- **butterfly** – the stage when the butterfly is an adult



Practical ideas

- Children should have observed the stages of a butterfly life cycle directly, using a kit in the classroom. This should have been started during the previous Growing up block this term.
- Ask children to complete a butterfly diary. This may include observational drawings at each stage of the life cycle. They could also include labels of the different stages and key descriptive phrases to explain what is happening in each stage.



Factual knowledge

- Butterflies lay eggs (usually on a leaf), which hatch into caterpillars.
- Once a caterpillar has grown, it will form a hard case to protect it. At this stage, it is a pupa. The pupa changes into a butterfly inside its hard case.
- Once the butterfly is fully formed, it will hatch from its casing.
- Once the adult butterfly has hatched, it is ready to fly and start the life cycle again.