Life Cycle of a Butterfly Booklet

- As often as possible ask children to give examples of changes that take place in animals and plants during their life cycles. Things like:
  - Egg, caterpillar (larva), cocoon (pupa/chrysalis), adult. This is called complete metamorphosis and occurs in many types of insects such as butterflies.
  - Egg, nymph (looks same as adult, only smaller), adult. This is called incomplete metamorphosis and occurs in many types of insects such as grasshoppers.
  - Egg, growth, adult. This occurs in some animals. Sometimes animals have to shed their skin (molt) as their bodies grow larger such as snakes.
  - Live birth, growth, adult. This occurs in live born animals such as humans.
  - Seed, growth, flower, fruit.

- When you read a story about changes from egg to butterfly, children can make this booklet (run the template on 8.5’ X 14’ paper, use 8 page book instructions for folding and cutting)
  - Egg – glue a navy bean on the leaf to represent the egg.
  - Larvae – glue a spiral pasta or chenille stem on the leaf to represent the caterpillar.
  - Pupa – glue a shell pasta attached to the twig to represent the cocoon.
  - Adult – glue a bowtie pasta to make the butterfly near the flowers, dye the pasta beforehand with dry tempera paint or food color with a drop of alcohol.

- Ask the children to discuss how each stage is different.
  - Why does the mother lay her eggs on leaves? (because the hatching caterpillars will be hungry and will need leaves to eat)
  - Why are a lot of caterpillars green? (protective coloration-to blend in with the leaves so enemies won’t see them)
  - What does a caterpillar do? (it only eats and grows during this stage and tries not to get eaten by something else)
  - Why does the cocoon need to be made of a strong material? (to protect the changing animal until it is ready to emerge, to live through winter conditions)
  - What can the adult do that none of the other stages could do? (fly around, visit flowers for nectar, lay eggs)

- Make a class journal page showing the stages that children made in their booklets.
Eight Page Book Instructions

1. Students will need one sheet of 8 ½ X 14 or 8 ½ X 11 paper and a pair of scissors.

2. Have the students fold the construction paper in half hot dog style.

3. Have the students open the paper and fold it hamburger style.

4. Have the students fold the paper back to the middle fold so it looks like a tent.

5. Cut from the center fold to the next fold; do not cut the paper completely apart.

6. Open up all the way and refold to make the hot dog fold you first made.

7. Hold the ends and push the paper together so that the center slit opens into a diamond. Keep pushing the sides together until the two sections touch. Bring all the sections together and fold the book closed.
Life Cycle of a Butterfly

EGG

LARVA

ADULT

PUPA