

QUICK FACTS:

All living things grow and change during their lifetimes. Every plant and animal begins life, matures, and dies in a series of stages called a life cycle.

Insects are a group of animals that go through metamorphosis. Most insects have life cycles with four distinct and unique stages-egg, larva, pupa and adult. Insect eggs hatch into worm-like larvae. The larvae eat and grow, then form a pupa. During the pupa stage, the insects go through a complete change within a protective covering, emerging as adults-most with wings. Butterflies, beetles (including ladybugs), bees, ants and flies are examples of insects that go through this "complete metamorphosis."

Some insects go through a simple, or incomplete, metamorphosis with three distinct stages of development-egg, nymph (or larva) and adult. With these, the insect hatches as a nymph, this looks similar to the adult without wings. Grasshoppers and dragonflies are examples of insects that undergo incomplete metamorphosis.

ACTIVITY

MATERIALS

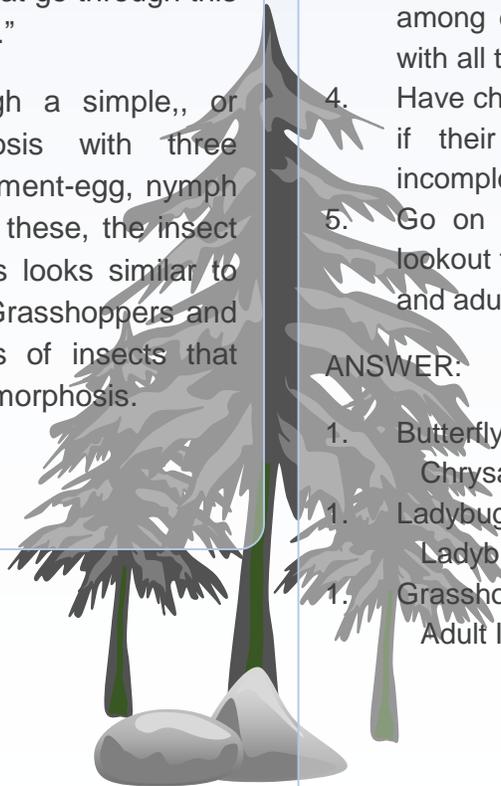
- Life Cycle Cards

READY, SET, GO!

1. Ask children whether they can think of animals besides people that change as they grow. Has anyone watched a pet grow from a baby into an adult? Share pictures of familiar animals as babies and adults. In what ways do these animals change as they grow?
2. Using the pink example card of the bird, show children the pictures (in order) of the bird's life cycle. Ask children to point out ways the animal changes as it grows.
3. Hand out insect life cycle cards to group. If working with a small group lay out cards face up. Have children walk among each other and find their group with all the life stages for their animal.
4. Have children share insect life cycle and if their insect has a complete or incomplete metamorphosis.
5. Go on a nature walk and be on the lookout for life cycles. Search for babies and adult animals in the park.

ANSWER:

1. Butterfly Eggs → Caterpillars → Chrysalis → Adult COMPLETE
1. Ladybug Eggs → Ladybug Larva → Ladybug Pupa → Adult COMPLETE
1. Grasshopper Eggs → Nymph → Adult INCOMPLETE



Bird Life Cycle

EGG



ADULT



HATCHLING



LIFE CYCLE
of a
ROBIN

JUVENILE



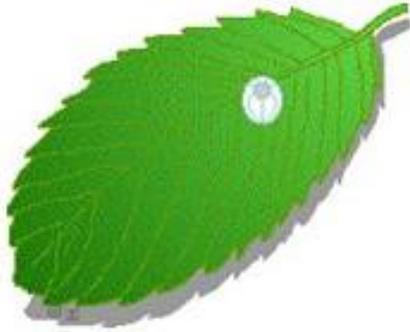
NESTLING



FLEDGLING



Print, Cut, and Match!



Egg



Larva
(Caterpillar)

Pupa



Adult

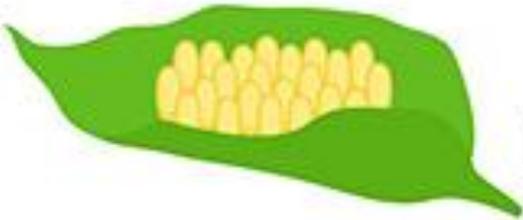
Print, Cut, and Match!



Adult ladybug



Larvae



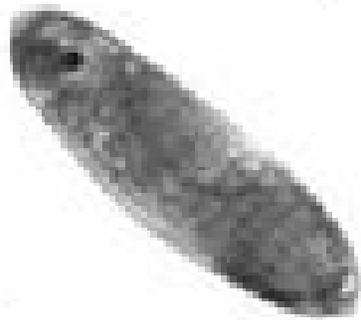
Eggs



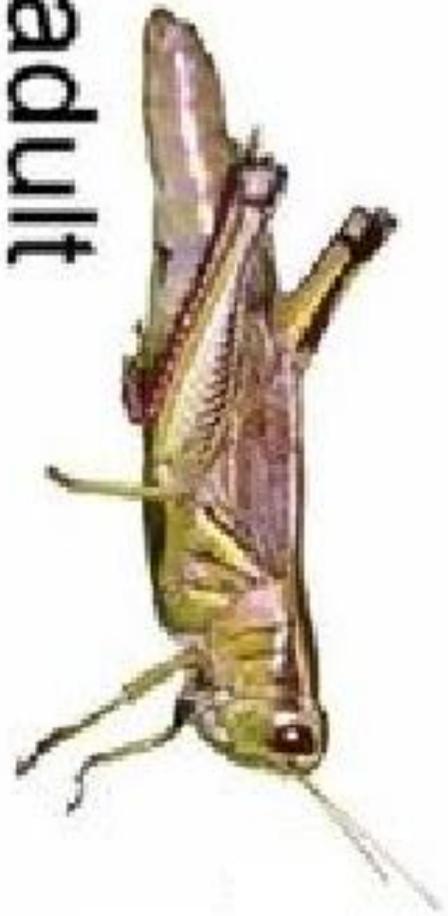
Pupa

Print, Cut, and Match!

egg



adult



nymph

