

Beetlemania

Beetle Life Cycle Game



Time: About 30 Minutes

Number of Students: Up to 30

Materials:

- Life cycle cards
- Open space to play the game as a group

Overview:

- Discussion: 15 minutes
- Metamorphosis Game: 15 minutes
- Closing Discussion: 5 minutes

Learning Objectives:

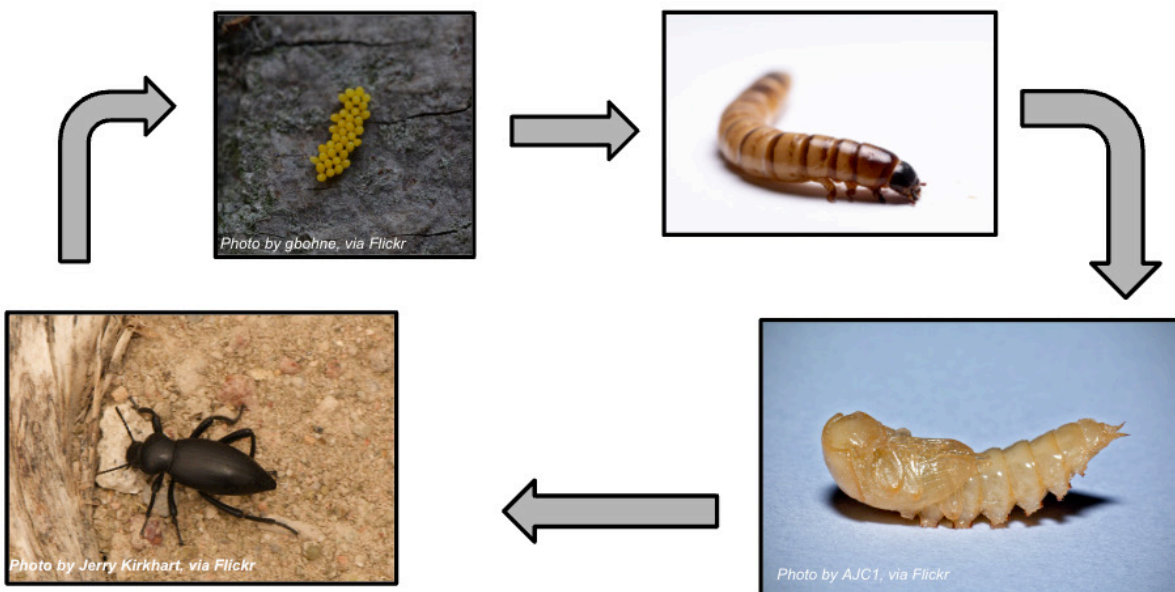
Students will be able to...

- list, in the correct order, the steps of metamorphosis and identify what a beetle looks like during each stage.

Lesson Steps: Discussion

Ask the class if anyone knows what a baby beetle looks like, what a beetle looks like when it's young and just hatched out of its egg. Reveal that since beetles go through complete metamorphosis when they hatch they look like a little white grub, a larva, similar to a caterpillar. Show the group the four life cycle cards: egg, larva, pupa and adult, emphasizing how different each stage is.

Have students act out the life cycle of a beetle. Guide them through the process: "Show me an egg, turn your body into a beetle egg. Great, now become a larva, show me your best larva impersonation" etc.



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Metamorphosis Game

This game is very similar to traditional “rock, paper, scissors” games, with the added elements of playing with a large group and acting out various stages of the beetle life cycle throughout the course of the game. The rules of the game are as follows:

- Everyone starts off the game as an egg. Each player should crouch down, curling their arms around their knees to look like an egg.
- Two players will waddle/roll up to each other and play a single round of rock, paper, scissors.
- Players can only play other players that are in the same stage of the life cycle as they are - eggs play eggs, adults play adults etc.
- When eggs play each other the winner becomes a larva and the loser stays as an egg.
- When larvae play each other the winner becomes a pupa and the loser stays as a larva.
- When pupae play each other the winner becomes an adult and the loser stays as a pupa.
- When adults play each other the winner stays as an adult and the loser becomes an egg.

Losing one round of the game does not mean a player is stuck in that role forever. They simply need to find another player also in that role and play again.

Start off the game with a review of how to play Rock, Paper, Scissors and explain the rules of this version of the game. Teachers and adult helpers can and should play as well. If you notice a player that is struggling or frustrated that they are still at a certain life cycle stage, become that stage and play a round with them. Encourage students to act and move like their life cycle stage as they move between games. Encourage them to yell out, “I’m a larva, I’m a larva! Who else is a larva!”, while wiggling like a larva.

As the game runs its course, wrap up the experience by asking how many students were at each stage at the end of the round of play. Ask them to show off their best life cycle acting skills.

Closing Discussion

Ask students what benefits metamorphosis might have for beetles.

Animals that go through complete metamorphosis (like beetles, butterflies, honey bees and more) have young that look and act completely different from the adults they will grow up to be. This means that they each eat completely different things too. By eating different foods adults and their young are not competing with each other for food. Butterflies sip nectar, while caterpillars chew on leaves. Without competing there is more food to go around for everyone!

Eggs





Larva

Pupa





Adult