

The Very Hungry Caterpillar and Invertebrates

EYFS - How to guide

Collect equipment from the centre and follow the map to First Marsh

Equipment

All equipment is provided: please do not bring your own

- The Very Hungry Caterpillar board book
- Caterpillar Café Leaf matching sheet

Invertebrate hunting equipment, each small group will need:

- 1 white tray
- 1 brush
- 1 bug box
- 1 identification guide
- Laminated butterfly pairs

Instructions

1. Read the Story. Discuss what do caterpillars really eat?
2. Role play the life cycle of a butterfly. Everyone starts crouched on the ground as an egg. The egg pops open and a caterpillar emerges (pupils walk around stretching their arms forwards and backwards to imitate the movement of a caterpillar); The caterpillar forms a chrysalis (cocoon; the pupils stand still and wrap their arms around themselves); the butterfly emerges from the chrysalis
3. Caterpillar Café: In small groups (3 or 4 pupils) use the identification sheet to explore and match leaves on the marsh and name common species. Can they find any leaves that a caterpillar has already eaten?
4. Invertebrate hunting: In the same groups; the white trays and bug boxes are to be placed in front of a animal and the brush used to gently sweep animals into the pot or tray. Place the lid on being careful not to catch any legs/wings etc. No slugs, snails or worms should be put in bug boxes as this makes them very sticky and other animals will get stuck to them!
Use the Invertebrate Identification sheet to identify the animals and then return them back where they were found.

Important:

- never pick the animals up with your fingers as they can easily be squashed by accident. Some animals might also feel threatened and try to bite, but they're all very small and no animals are dangerous enough to pose a real risk.
- Don't put too many animals together in a pot, they don't all get on!

5. Matching Butterflies: Give each group one half of a butterfly. Pupils then find the group with the matching wing.

Discuss: symmetry, can they recall the names of any of the butterflies?

At the end of the activity

1. Collect in all laminated butterflies.
2. Return all equipment to the box and return to the centre.
3. Wash hands

