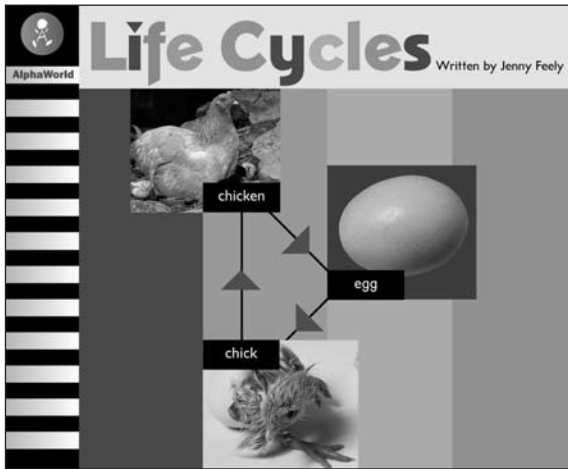


Life Cycles



Topic: Animal Kingdom/Time

Curriculum link: Natural Science

Text type: Explanation/Comparison

Reading level: 12

Word count: 226

Vocabulary: birth, butterflies, caterpillars, changing, chrysalis, cycles, feathers, feeding, growing, hatch, tadpoles

Possible literacy focus:

- Understanding the text at the literal level: what are life cycles?
- Finding plurals and giving their singular form (butterfly/butterflies, frog/frogs).

Follow-up activities

Understanding text structure – Explanation Comparison

Explore the structure of an explanation comparison with the children. This type of text usually presents a general statement about the topic followed by an explanation of how something occurs. In the case of *Life Cycles*, comparisons are then made between the four different life cycles: butterfly, frog, chicken and dog.

Examine one of the double-page spreads and ask the children to compare the information provided, for example, feeding on pages 10–11.

Are there any similarities between the animals?

What are the differences?

Show children the contents page and how this helps us to locate the information we need. Point out the headings on each page and why we need them. Explore the glossary and its use.

Thinking about the book

After reading the book, ask the children:

How do the diagrams help you to understand the life cycles?

Are all animals' life cycles the same?

Why did the author select these four animals for the book?

Which animals would you have selected for the book?

Look at pages 18–19. What is similar about these life cycles? What is different?

Plurals

Ask children to look through the book and write down all of the words that are the names of the animals: butterfly/butterflies, tadpole/tadpoles, puppy/puppies, chicken/chickens.

List these words on the board. Now circle the plural words and ask the children what is similar about these words. Show the children the different rules that apply when the words are in their singular and then plural forms.

Ask children to write down other names of animals in both their singular and plural forms to add to a class list.

Memory game

You will need:

16 cards, scissors, pencils, felt pens, coloured pencils

1. Make a memory game about *Life Cycles*.
2. Draw a different stage of the life cycle of the animals on each of the 8 cards.
3. Write the name of the stage on the other 8 cards.
4. Now play a game with a friend.
5. Place the cards face down on the table.
6. The first person picks up two cards. If the cards match, they keep them and have another turn. If they don't match it is the other person's turn.
7. The game continues until all cards are matched.
8. The person with the most pairs wins.



Life cycle collage

You will need:

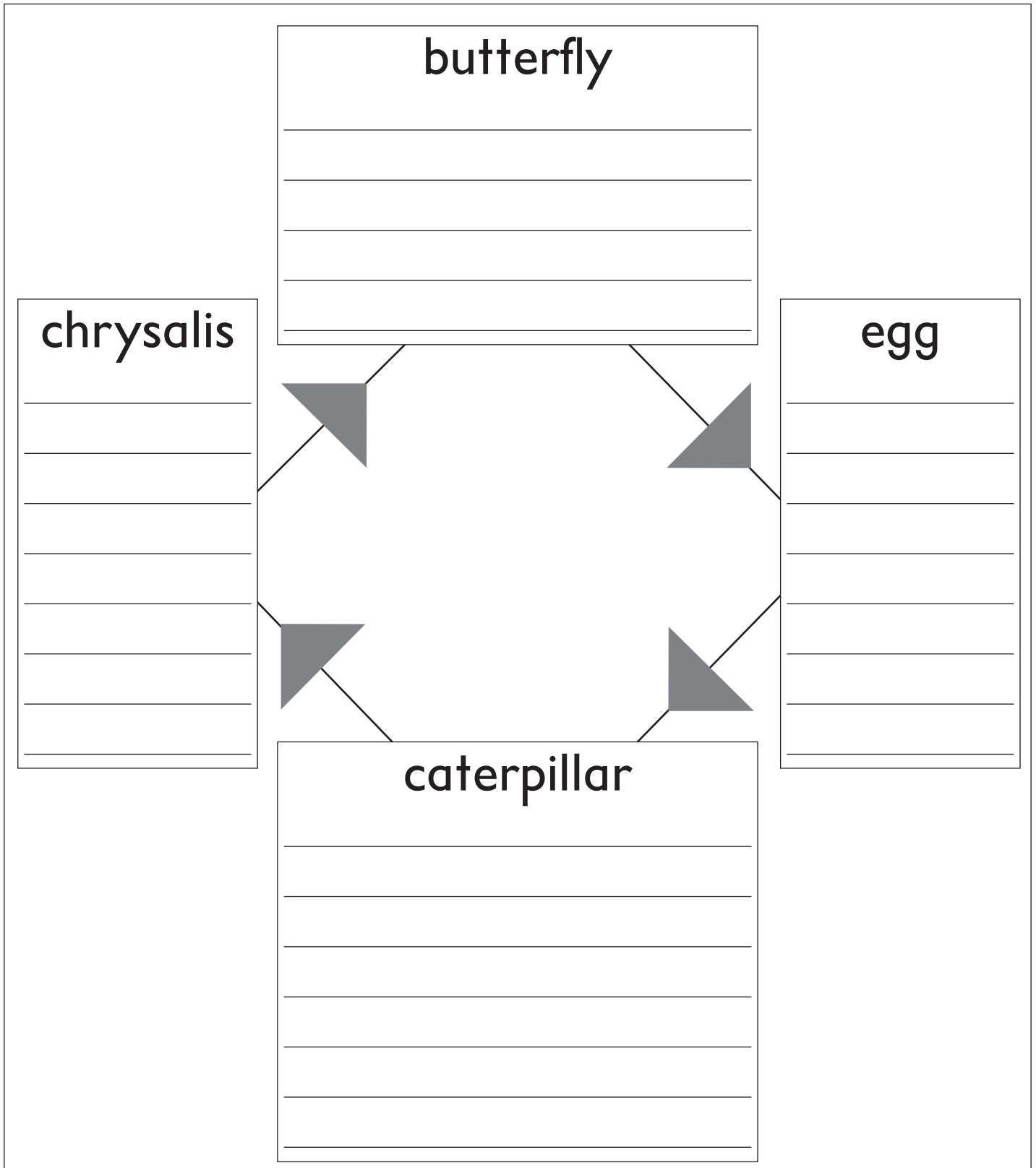
cardboard, pencils, material, icypole sticks, straws, pipe cleaners, material, cotton wool, coloured paper, glue, sticky tape, scissors

1. Work with a partner to make a collage of one of the life cycles.
2. Include each of the stages.
3. Label your collage.
4. Share your work with the class.

Name _____

Life cycle of a butterfly

Fill in the boxes about each stage of the butterfly's life cycle. Then draw a picture of a butterfly in the centre of the page.



Name _____

Facts grid

Fill in the grid with facts from the book.

	Starting out	Young animals	Changing
Butterfly			
Frog			
Chicken			
Dog			