

The very hungry Caterpillar



Colours, shapes... create! Numbers, words... investigate

INTRODUCTION

For EYFS, Key Stage 1, Lower Key Stage 2

Literacy

Telling the story in their own words and images, describing their surroundings, creating poems.

Science

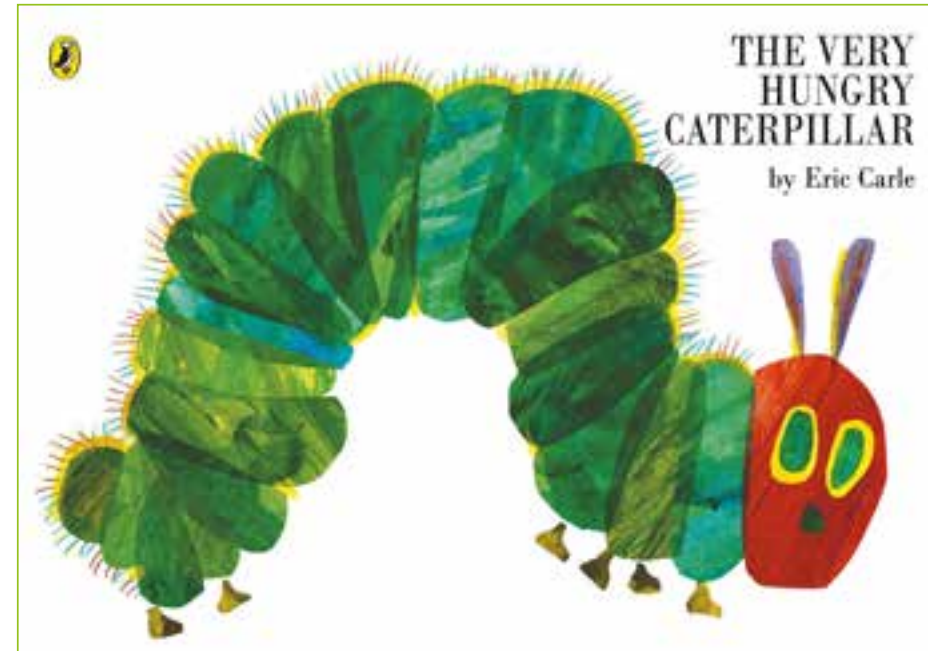
Discover camouflage and adaptations, habitats and leaf ID.

Numeracy

Numerous numeracy activities with leaves and symmetry.

Art

Create animal homes, ribbon sticks and natural art.



Telling the story

ACTIVITY

1

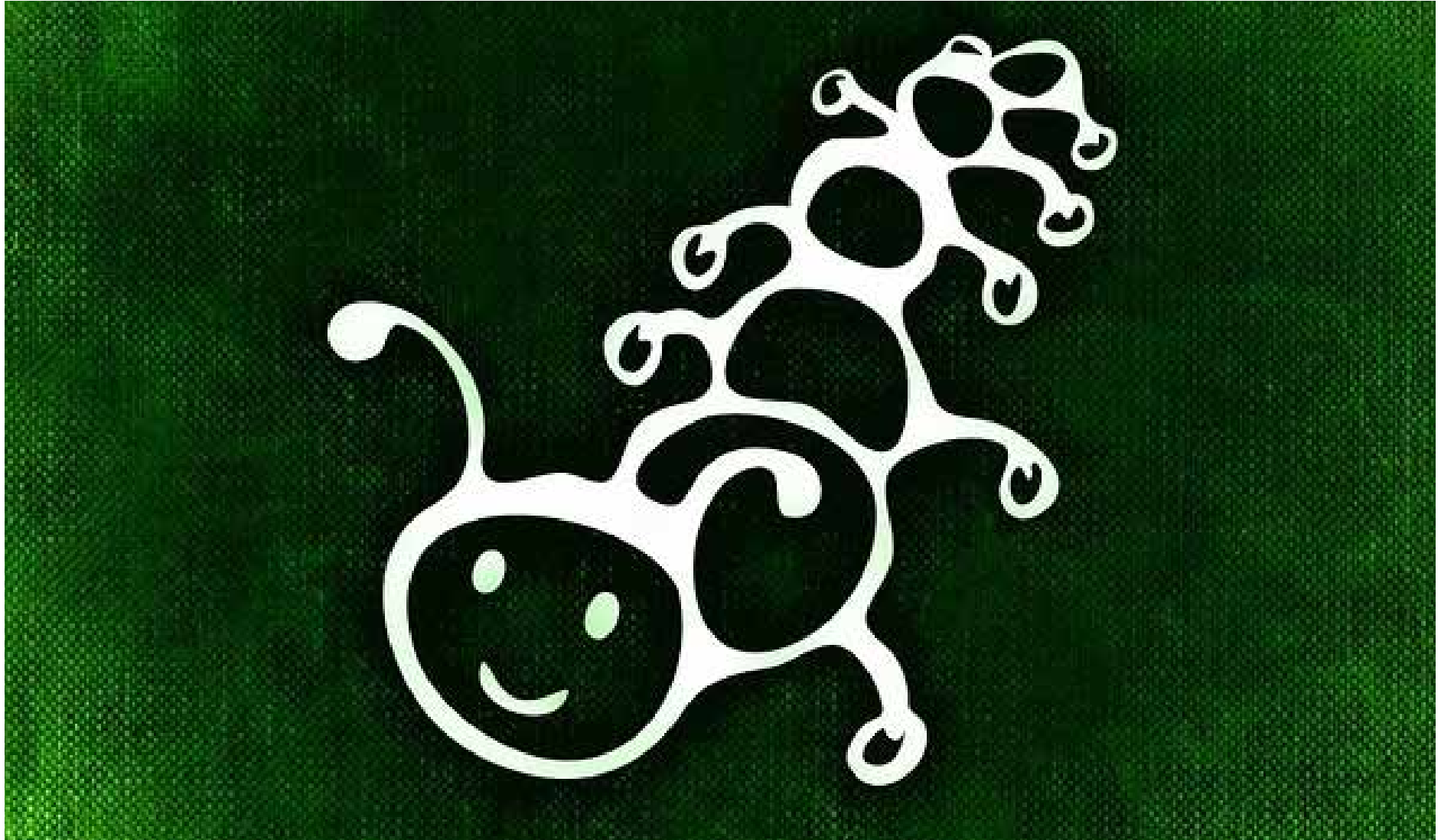
A

Tie a string, at a sitting child's eye height, between two trees or bushes.

Space out the pegs along the string.

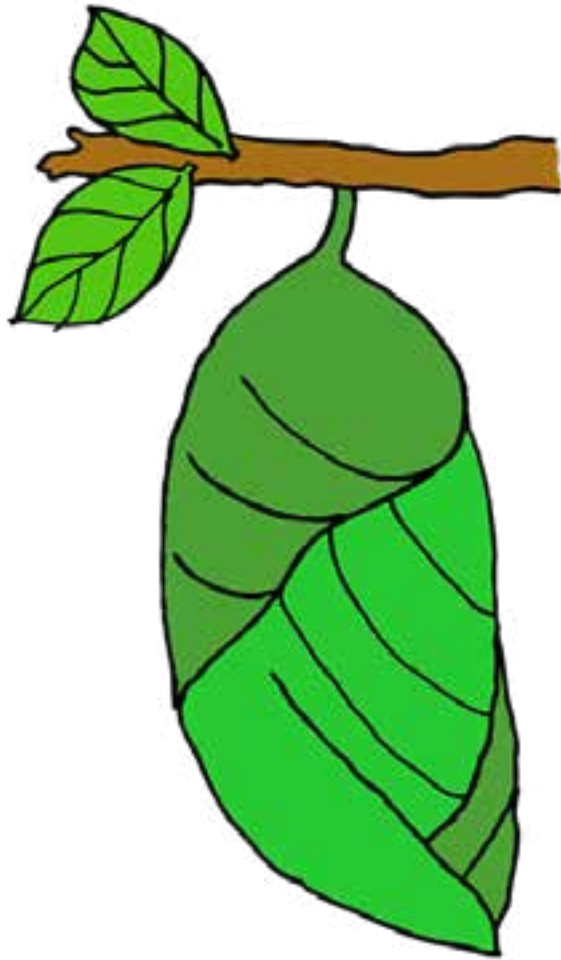
Using copies of the cards on the following pages, tell the story of The Very Hungry Caterpillar with the children joining in when the cards are held up. They can peg the cards to the washing line in order.











Out of the egg came a tiny and very hungry caterpillar...

ACTIVITY 2

T Sprinkle the children with 'magic leaves'; they have shrunk to the size of caterpillars!

A **Ask: What does your world look like now you are a caterpillar?**

Is the ground around you; dark or light, wet or dry, bumpy or smooth, prickly or soft?

Is moss spreading out like a carpet?

Are flower petals as big as dinner plates?

Are leaves like blankets?

Are ants as big as dogs?

What about twigs, mole hills, stones, tree stumps, bushes and trees?

What do things sound like now you are a caterpillar?

What are the birds saying? Are they talking to you? What does a bee sound like, or the wind in the trees?

What do things smell like now you are a caterpillar?



Caterpillar Capers

ACTIVITY 3

Sprinkle the children with 'magic leaves'; they have shrunk to the size of caterpillars!

Creepy, Crawly

How many words can you think of to describe how a caterpillar moves?

Wriggle, glide, bend, stretch out, raise head to look around, use the suckers on feet (how will you 'unstick' your suckers? What noise will they make?)

Move around the chosen area like a caterpillar; go under, over and through.

Can you see me?

Whilst children are busy with 'Creepy, Crawly', tie lengths of coloured wool to bushes, low branches etc, then send children on a hunt to find them all.

Talk about why some were easier to find and why.

Calling Colours

Take it in turn to call out colours you can see, point to other places where you can see the same colour.

Choose a caterpillar from the caterpillar sheets. Hunt around to find things the same colours as your caterpillar.

Using the paint strips, walk around the chosen area trying to match the colours to nature.

Count together how many different greens you found.

What colours didn't you find? Why?

“ Caterpillar curly
Is twisting round a stick,
Caterpillar spiky
He's not very quick.
Caterpillar wriggly
She's climbing up a tree,
Caterpillar dotty
Is listening to a bee.
Caterpillar bendy
Is quiet – not a word,
Caterpillar furry
Quick, hide –
here comes a bird!

Find things that are:
Curly, spiky, wriggly,
dotty, bendy or furry



Continuing with Caterpillars

ACTIVITY 4

Sprinkle the children with 'magic leaves'; they have shrunk to the size of caterpillars!

A

'Crossed Sticks'

Spell out vertically, with sticks, the word 'caterpillar'.
Talk about acrostic poems and how to make them. Use the first three or four letters as an example:

“ **Creepy crawlies everywhere**

Another sunny day

The ants love sunshine

Everybody is smiling ”

The caterpillar acrostic can be about what they see around them; colours, shapes, nature or how they feel being outside, for example.

Either work as a whole group or give small groups a letter each. Alternatively, decide together on what each first word will be and then, in groups, make up the rest of the poem.

A

MEGAPILLAR

Set out hoops, or make stick frames, for grouping gathered materials.
Make a pile of short sticks, which will become tally sticks

Collect a mixture of different coloured leaves, sticks, stones, conkers, acorns and other natural materials. Use the tally sticks to count how many of each item is collected. The tally stick could represent one item, or two or five for example, depending on how much you collect.

Work together and use the gathered materials to make a giant Megapillar. The hoops or frames could be used to outline the body.

If coloured caterpillars could change their colours constantly, could they keep their coloured coat coloured properly?



Collect a mixture of lots of lovely leaves

ACTIVITY 5

A

Sort

Play leaf snap

Make a tree starting with one leaf. Use twigs and sticks for the trunk and branches

Make a line of leaves

Are you making a wriggly, squiggly caterpillar of different colours?

How many leaves in a line from A to B? Is your line in 'leaf size' order?

Choose one favourite leaf and put it somewhere special, where it can be seen.

Or pop it in a paper frame and hold it up to the light.



A

Nature Wands

Find a stick that will make a good wand.

Wrap two thirds of the stick with masking tape – sticky side out!

Search for interesting things to stick to your wand or tie them on with string or wool.



The caterpillar ate through one nice green leaf

ACTIVITY 6

A Find leaves with holes

In pairs, can you line up leaves with 1, 2, 3, 4 holes in them?
How far can you go?

Why not take two leaves and add up the holes? How about subtraction or multiplication? You could use sticks for +, - and x symbols. Why not set sums for your partner to solve?

Make a leaf home

Some caterpillars use a sticky thread to join leaves together to make a safe place to hide.

A With a plastic darning needle and wool or string; make lacing patterns following the holes or sew leaves together.

A Find holes in other things

Talk together about how the holes were made. Are they homes, where wood has rotted, made by creatures finding food or caused by people?

In pairs choose one of the holes and make up sentences about it. End the sentence every time by pointing to the hole and saying 'full stop'. Are there other shapes that can be used as punctuation?



He built a small house...

ACTIVITY 7

Lots of creatures make their own houses

T Where could they build their houses?
What could they use to make their houses?

A In pairs or small groups, make a woodland home for a small creature

Will your house be somewhere secret and hidden?
Or will it be out in the open?

Will your house be snug, warm and cosy?
Or will it be cool, light and airy?

When you have finished building, talk to other pairs about your house. Tell them why you built it where you did, what materials and techniques you used.

Who lives in your house? What does it like about the house? How do they feel about living in the woodland?
Make a creature to live in your house.



He was a beautiful butterfly!

ACTIVITY 8

What do butterflies eat?

Butterflies get all their food from drinking. They have a long narrow tube in their mouth like a straw and they sit on top of a flower and drink the nectar. They also drink tree sap and the juice of fruit.

Butterflies taste with their feet. They can tell what a flower is going to taste like just by landing on it. (It wouldn't work if they wore shoes!)

A

Ribbon Stick Butterflies

Make a ribbon stick butterfly by tying lengths of coloured ribbon to a stick. With your partner, flit from flower to flower, or bush to bush, with your ribbon stick butterfly.

When your butterfly lands describe to your partner what it can taste through its feet.

Sweet, buttery, chewy, cool, crispy, fresh, hot, earthy, dry, gooey, juicy, cheesy, fizzy, slimy, minty, salty, watery, soggy, spongy?

Why not make a map of the journey your butterfly takes, marking the flowers and plants where it stops. It could be a paper map or you could make a map with things you find around you, like leaves, stones and twigs.

The wings of a butterfly are symmetrical. There are lots of things in nature that are symmetrical. In pairs, with a mirror, find examples of symmetry in nature.



He was a beautiful butterfly!

First comes a...



Who lays an...



Out comes a...



...with many legs

Oh, see the...



spin and spin,

making a...



...to sleep in

Two weeks later the cocoon is split and dry,

...and out comes a pretty...



Why not use this to make giant outdoor art? Instead of using pictures make collages or sculptures from outdoor materials.

What about mud pictures using sticks instead of pencils or brushes?

Why not use sticks to make letters or words from the poem?

Make sure you photograph your finished creation.



LOTTERY FUNDED

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