

# In the Company of Wild Butterflies

A Bay Area Scientists in Schools Presentation for  
Grades 2 and 4

Sally Levinson  
Entomologist



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## STANDARDS CONNECTION

**Grade 2 Life Science:** Living things reproduce their own kind, offspring resembles parents. Different animals have different life cycles.

**Grade 4 Life Science:** Producers and consumers make up food chains and food webs, competing for resources in ecosystem (herbivores, carnivores, omnivores, and decomposers). Relationships between plants and animals (pollination, seed dispersal, animals rely on plants for food and shelter).

### INSPIRATION AND INVOLVEMENT

Sally studied entomology in graduate school. She created a butterfly garden to share her love of insects with her children. Sally also gave presentations about butterflies at her children's school, and helped her brother make the film "In the Company of Wild Butterflies."

## VOCABULARY

Lifecycle, egg, larva, pupa, adult, chrysalis, cocoon, food web, pollination  
host plant, herbivore, carnivore, parasitoid, flower, anther, stigma, pollen, nectar

## LEARNING EXPERIENCES

**Demonstration/Activity:** Sally will narrate a video that portrays the life cycle of a butterfly and will explain the different stages.

**Activity:** After watching the video, the students will create an insect art project. They will also have the chance to examine live specimens of eggs, larvae, and pupae of various species. Sally will also leave one caterpillar for the class to raise.

**Discussion:** Sally will review the life cycle of butterflies and their food web.



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# Caterpillars and Butterflies

Developed by Sally Levinson for grades 2 and 4

Science Standards:

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: Different animals have different **life cycles**

Vocabulary: egg, larva, pupa, adult, chrysalis, cocoon

4<sup>th</sup> Grade: food webs, pollination

Vocabulary: host plant, herbivore, carnivore, parasitoid, flower, anther, stigma, pollen, nectar

## Introduction:

Hobbies: helping my brother make "In the Company of Wild Butterflies!" At LHS May 7!

My History: Studied entomology in grad school. Started a butterfly garden to share my love of insects with my kids. Began with presentations at their school.

Mystery question: What makes a cocoon?

## Lesson Introduction:

- 1) Lifecycle video that I narrate.
- 2) Insect art project.
- 3) Live specimens of eggs, larvae (on host plants) and pupae of several species.
- 4) Caterpillar for students to raise.

Open ended question: What butterfly behavior have you seen?

Summary:

Butterfly Lifecycle: Egg, larva, pupa, adult.

Food Web: Pollen, nectar, butterfly, caterpillar host plant.

Follow-up:

- 1) Watch for butterflies laying eggs on leaves (lifecycle) or nectaring (pollination, food web).
- 2) Where do they lay their eggs?
- 3) What kind of flowers do they use? Which do they ignore?

## Materials:

I bring: video, paper craft, specimens.

Teacher provides: working tv with vcr, scissors, table to set up specimens.

Student preparation: Complete enchanted learning worksheets:

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/subjects/insects/label/butterfly.shtml>

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/subjects/butterfly/label/lifecycle/label.shtml>

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/subjects/insects/label/caterpillar.shtml>



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