

should continue to collect that plant for feeding. If you're still really stumped about the caterpillar's food preferences, you can try introducing one or more of the most common caterpillar food plants. Popular tree species include oak, willow, cherry, poplar, birch, apple, and alder. Some herbaceous plants, like dandelions and clover, are also common hosts for larvae. Whatever your caterpillar does eat, you will need an abundant supply of the food plant. Remember, a caterpillar's job is to eat and grow. As it gets bigger, it will eat more. You need to keep a fresh supply of food available to the caterpillar at all times. Change the food once most of it has been eaten, or if it starts to wilt or dry out. Since caterpillars eat a lot, they also produce a lot of droppings. You'll need to clean out the caterpillar's housing regularly. When the caterpillar is on its food plant, it's a fairly easy process. Just remove the food plant and the caterpillar, and let it continue munching away while you clean house. Make sure you clean out the small jar holding the food plant, too. If conditions become too moist in the housing, you may discover fungus forming in the soil layer. When that happens, be sure to remove the soil completely and replace it.

You won't need to do much once the caterpillar successfully pupates. Remove the food plant. The pupa can dry out if conditions become too dry, or become moldy if too damp. Some lepidopterists recommend removing the pupa from the caterpillar housing, but this isn't necessary if you check the jar once in a while. If the soil appears extremely dry and crumbly, a light spray with water will add a little moisture. If condensation appears on the jar, wipe it down.

Spring and most summer caterpillars may emerge as adults within a few weeks after pupating. Autumn caterpillars usually overwinter in the pupal form, meaning you will have to wait until spring to see the moth or butterfly. Keep any overwintering pupae in a cool basement or unheated garage, to prevent premature emergence. When the adult emerges, it will need time to dry its wings before it can fly. This may take a few hours. Once it is ready to fly, it may begin fluttering its wings rapidly, which can damage its wings if the butterfly or moth is left in the jar. Take the jar outdoors, preferably to the area where you collected the caterpillar, and release your butterfly or moth.

Year 5 – All living things and their habitats

Assessing children’s knowledge and understanding of the nature, processes and methods of science

Learning expectation	Group 1 (lower ability)	Group 2 (average ability)	Group 3 (higher ability)	Comments
To be able to explain the differences in the life cycles of a mammal, an amphibian, an insect and a bird.				
To be able to describe the life process of reproduction in some plants and animals.				
To be able to plan the correct enquiry to answer a question.				
To be able to recognise which secondary sources will be most useful to their research (non-statutory).				
To be able to use				

scientific diagrams and labels.				
To be able to explain findings.				

Children <u>below</u> the learning expectations	Children <u>above</u> the learning expectations

SAMPLE