

LADYBUG! LADYBUG!

Background for the Teacher

- Ladybugs are also known as ladybirds, ladybird beetles, ladyflies, and ladycows.
- Like other insects, ladybugs have six legs, two antennae, and three body parts - *head, thorax and abdomen*.
- Ladybugs have two pairs of wings attached to the middle section, or thorax of their bodies. The inner pair of wings is used for flying. The outer pair of wings, named the *elytra*, is hard like a shell and is used to protect the ladybug.
- Ladybugs can be red, orange, yellow, or black.
- Some ladybugs excrete a foul-smelling liquid from their legs.
- Experiments have shown that ladybugs probably don't taste good to predators.
- Ladybugs like to eat *aphids* - small insects that suck the juice out of plants.
- One ladybug can eat as many as 100 aphids in one day.
- Many ladybugs hibernate during the winter.

Amazing! Life Cycle

This picture-perfect sequencing activity explores how ladybugs grow and change. Give each child a copy of **Amazing Changes**. Then use the life cycle information to tell students about each stage in chronological order, pausing for each student to find and color the corresponding illustration. After each student completes their coloring, instruct them to cut out their illustrations. Then have them glue the illustrations in the appropriate numbered boxes. The result will be a handy prop for telling their family about the ladybug like cycle!

Life Cycle Information

Eggs: A ladybug lays many yellow or orange eggs on a plant.

Larva: A wormlike creature called a larva hatches from each egg. Each larva is black and orange.

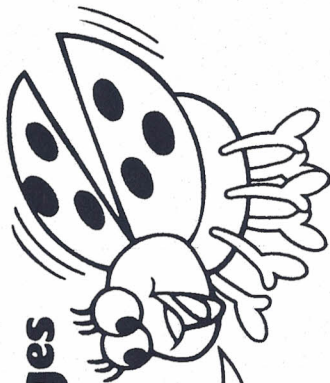
Pupa: After a larva grows, it attaches itself to a leaf and becomes a pupa with a hard shell.

New Ladybug: The pupa changes into an adult. After several days, a yellow ladybug without spots comes out of the shell.

Adult Ladybug: The ladybug quickly becomes more colorful and may get spots.

Name _____

Amazing Changes



Tell how ladybugs
grow and change!

Listen for directions.

1

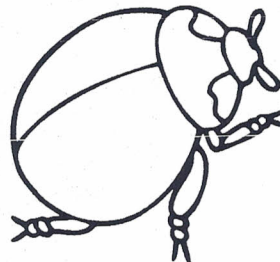
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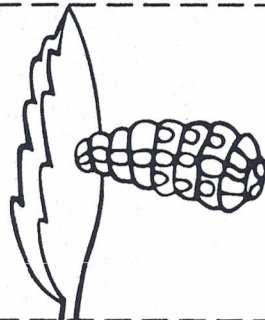
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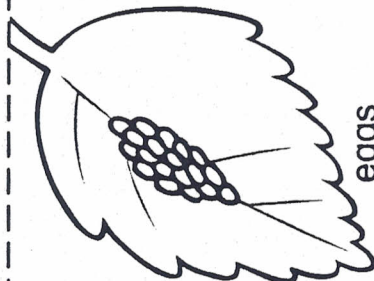
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new ladybug



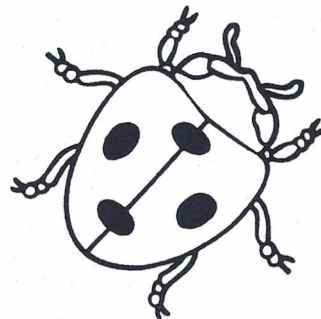
pupa



eggs



larva



adult ladybug

Ladybug Activities

Little Ladybugs

Count on students to go buggy over these handy garden visitors! To begin, glue a three-inch black construction paper semicircle (head) to a five-inch black construction paper circle (body) to resemble a ladybug. Cut two antennae from construction paper scraps and glue them on. Turn the ladybug over. Next, fold a 9"x12" sheet of red construction paper in half. Trace one hand on the folded paper. Carefully cut along the tracing through both thickness of the paper. Then position the hand cutouts on the ladybug to resemble wings. Glue them in place. Use black tempera paint to make thumbprints on the wings. Allow the paint to dry then the ladybug will be ready for display!



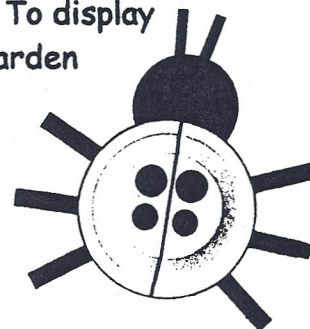
Ladybug Helpers

Help students with math facts, language skills and name recognition with these ladybugs! To make a ladybug helper, cut a body-and-head shape from black construction paper. Then cut two wings from red construction paper. Glue math facts, language skills (contractions, plurals, etc.) child's picture, to the black body. Then write math facts, language skills and the first and last name on the wings. Attach the two wings to the body with a brad. After making the ladybugs, place the bugs in a bug jar (large plastic jar) at a center. Encourage the students to visit the ladybug center and practice their skills.



Beautiful Ladybugs

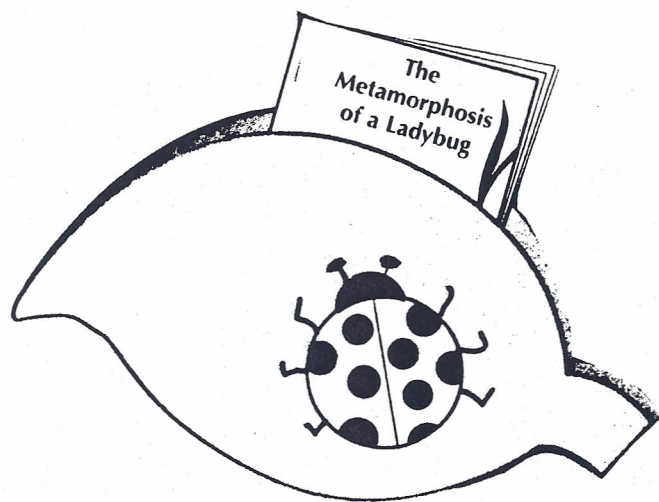
Create an eye-catching display with these three-dimensional creatures! To make a ladybug, students paint the outside of a paper bowl red. After the paint dries, they divide the bowl in half with a black line. Then glue on a construction paper head, two antennae, six legs and several spots. To display the student's ladybugs, post a jumbo leaf on a board titles "Our Garden Friends." Then tack the ladybugs to the leaf



Ladybug Moments

SCIENCE

For a ladybug, life is short! Use the provided information to present the four-stage development of a ladybug. Reveal that ladybugs born during the summer live only a few weeks. Those born at the end of the summer live longer because they hibernate through the winter. Then follow up by having each child make a metamorphosis booklet and leaf shaped holder. To begin, give each child a copy of the cards and bug pattern. Give each child two leaves on green construction paper. Have the student cut out the two leaves and glue the sides together leaving the top open. Set aside to dry. Color and cut out the bug, glue it to the leaf-shape holder and add details to the bug. Color the cards, stack them in order behind the title card and staple the left edge of the resulting booklet. Slide the booklet into the leaf holder.



WRITING

It isn't clear why ladybugs are thought to bring good luck. For centuries people have believed that they do. Many years ago when a ladybug crawled across a woman's hand, she believed that it meant she would be married within a year. Challenge each student to write and illustrate a story about a visit from a lucky ladybug. Bind the completed stories in a book titled "The Good luck Bugs" or "Lucky Ladybug Lore."

Metamorphosis Project

The Metamorphosis of a Ladybug

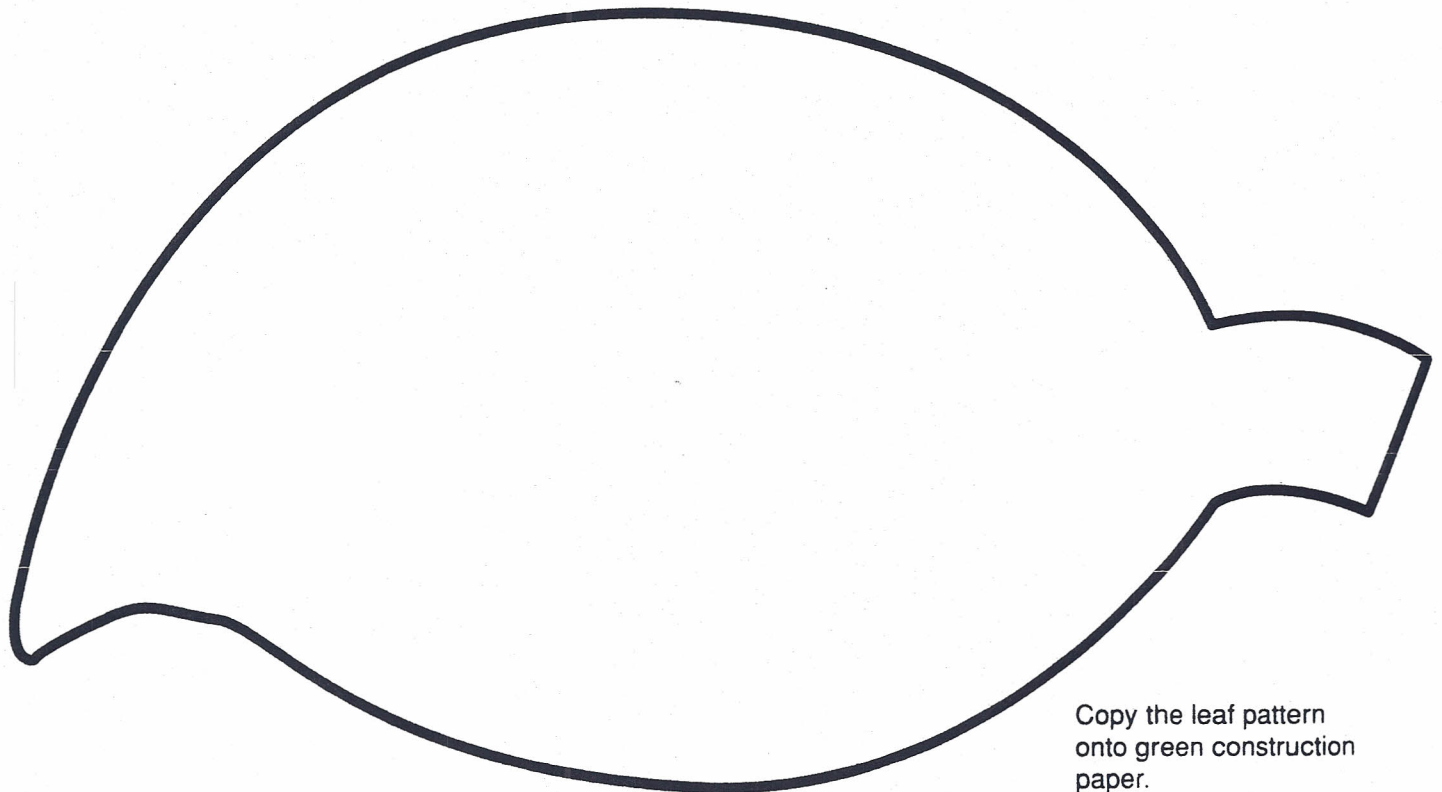
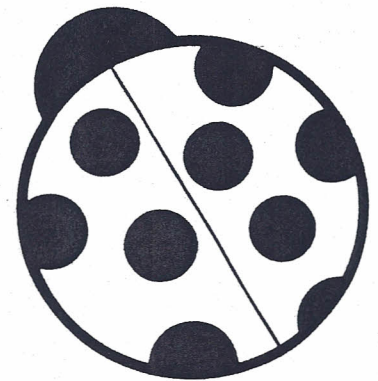
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A ladybug lays many eggs.

A tiny larva hatches out of each egg.

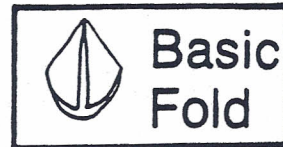
Soon the larva becomes a pupa.

A ladybug comes out of the pupa!



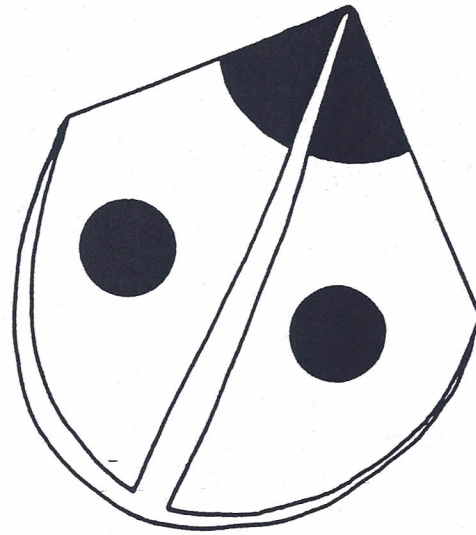
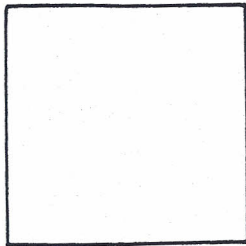
Copy the leaf pattern onto green construction paper.

Ladybug



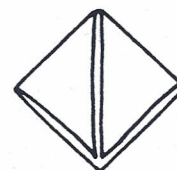
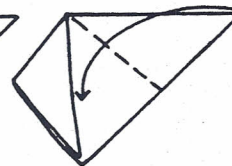
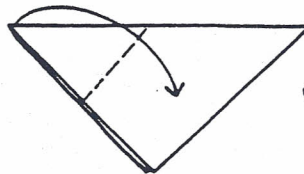
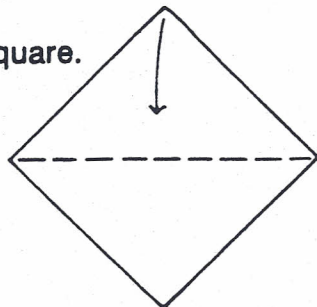
Materials:

Use a 5" (13cm) square of red paper.

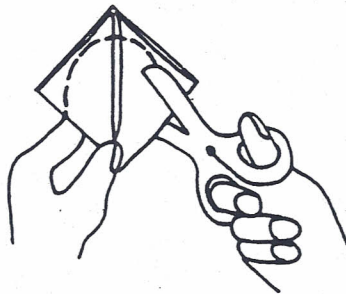


Steps to follow:

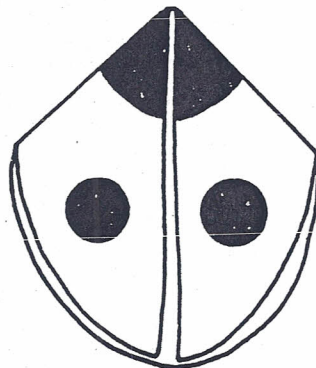
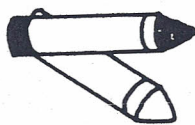
1. Fold the square.



2. Hold on to the folded tip and round off the open tip.



3. Add details with felt pen or crayon.



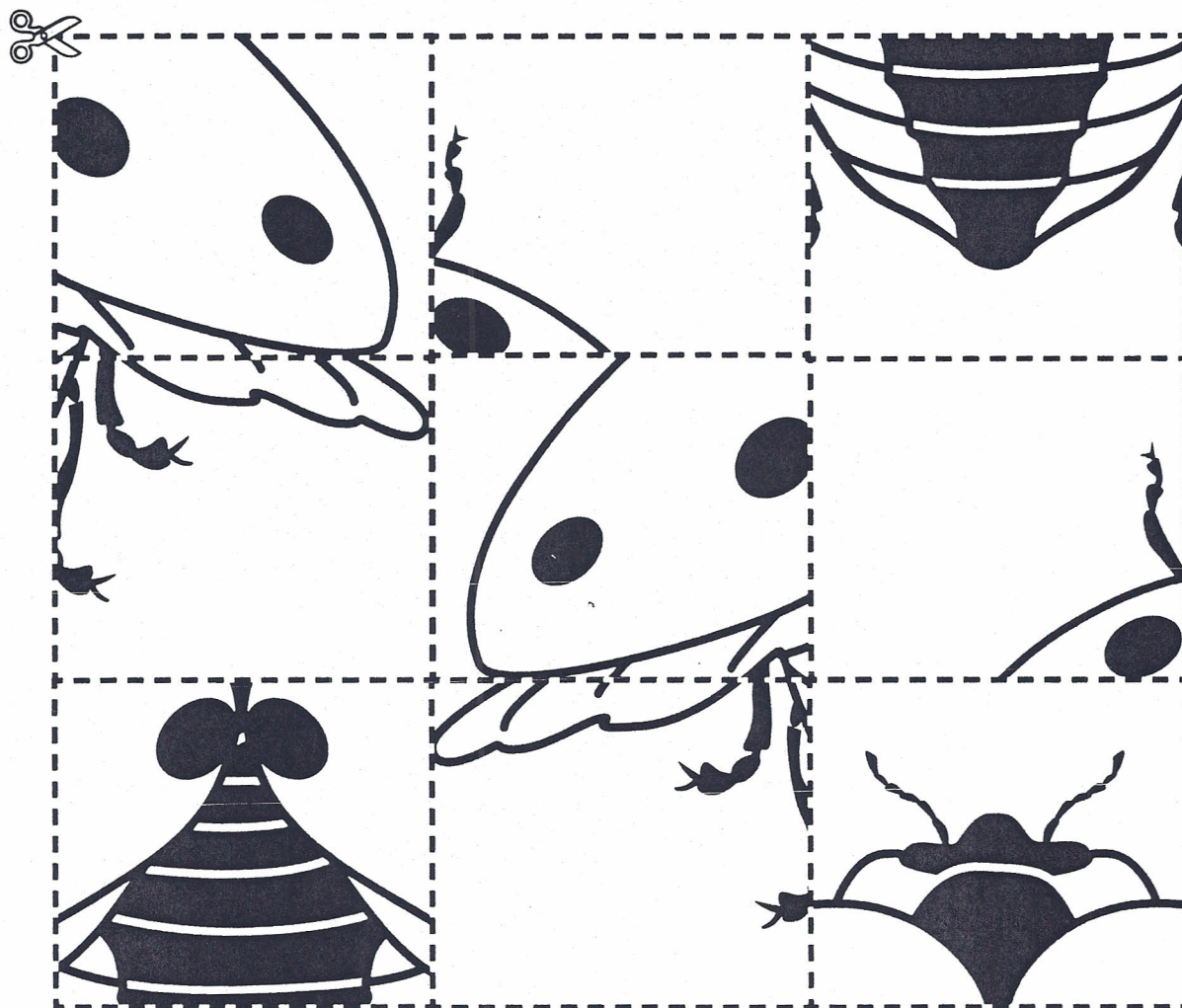
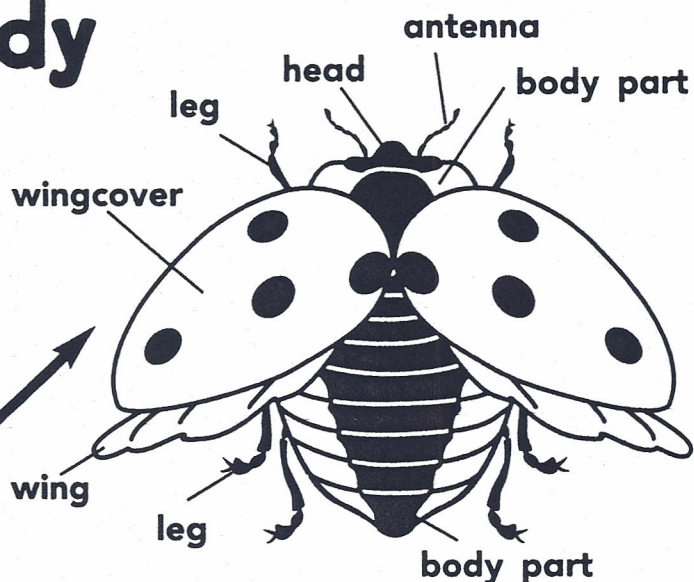
Uses:

- Make a large tree on the bulletin board. Pin ladybugs on the branches.
- Paste a ladybug on the front of an invitation to parents to visit the classroom.

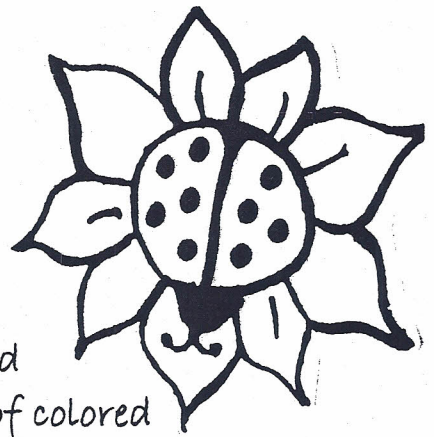
Name: _____

A Ladybug's Body

1. Cut out the pieces of the puzzle below.
2. Then put them together to make a ladybug. Tape or paste the ladybug to a piece of paper.
3. Label the ladybug like this.



Lucky Ladybug Necklace



Have a little fun! Students can practice counting and patterning by constructing a ladybug necklace out of colored macaroni and nametag ladybugs. Ladybug patterns cut from an Ellison die machine may be used also.

Materials:

Ziti macaroni

Food coloring

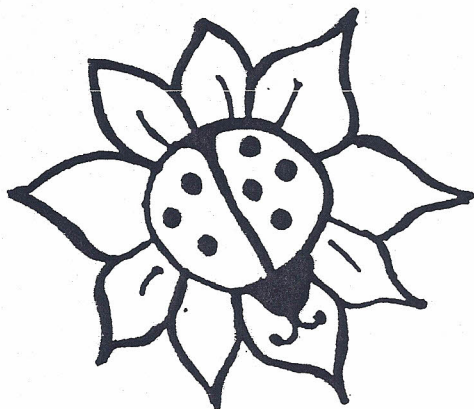
Rubbing alcohol

Pieces of black yarn cut in 30" lengths

Ladybug shapes

Directions:

1. Dye macaroni by placing handfuls into a plastic bag. Add a teaspoon of alcohol and a few drops of red food coloring. Shake the bag until the macaroni is coated and desired color. Add more drops of coloring for a darker color. Dry on newspapers. Repeat for black macaroni.
2. Punch a hole in the ladybug and string in the middle of the yarn.
3. Each student should count out and thread a predetermined number of macaroni pieces or patterns onto the piece of yarn.






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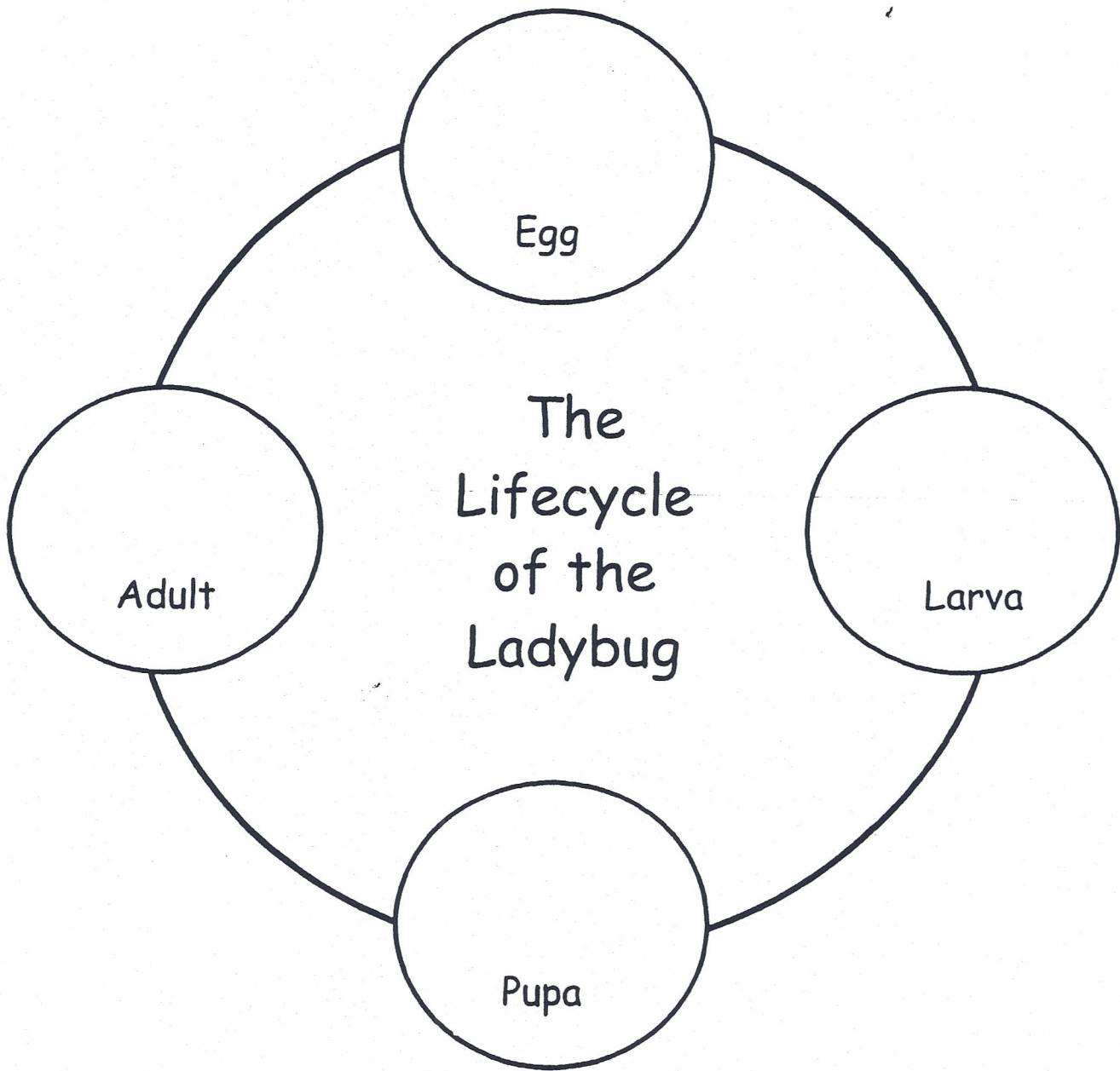


Ladybugs



G U B Y D A L S R E M R A F M
X G A R D E N E L T T I L J C
V N L X E A T L X L E A V E S
R Z F S V D U T S U M M E R N
M Z Z Z K C C E O F T Q N Q R
B R Z U K U D E Y P D H S X X
F P E Y I K S B L L S G D J Z
G N W H A G K L Y E L X Z T T
J V V A S S H A T H V Z N S Y
T F H G O E P C R O P S J Q D
K G G F W K O K T U G R W X K

Beetles	Black	Crops	Farmers
Garden	Helpful	Ladybug	Leaves
Little	Lucky	Red	Spotted
Summer			



Cut and paste the pictures into the correct circle.

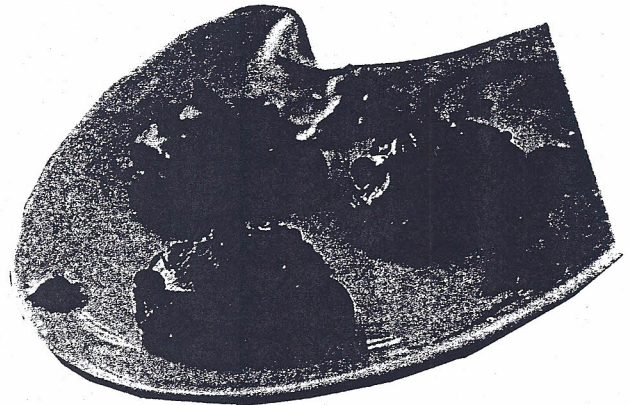


Ladybug Cookies

Brighten any day with a batch of these delectable ladybugs, made from vanilla wafers!

- 24 vanilla wafer cookies
- 1 can creamy vanilla frosting
- Red food coloring
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup mini chocolate chips
- 24 Milk Duds or Junior Mints

Place cookies on cookie sheet lined with foil. Place frosting in bowl. Add food coloring; mix well. Spread frosting on rounded side of each wafer. Position 5-7 mini chips on top of each frosted cookie to create the ladybug's spots. Place small amount of frosting on Milk Dud or Junior Mint; secure it to a frosted cookie at top edge to make the ladybug's head. Makes 24 little ladybugs. Enjoy!



Resources

Mailbox- The Education Center
Evan-Moor Corp
Scholastic News
Ladybug Ladies

Best Friends!

A Readers Theater Script

by Jody Watson

Narrator
Ladybug #1
Butterfly #1

Ant
Ladybug #2
Butterfly #2

Cricket
Ladybug #3
Butterfly #3

Narrator: These two friends don't look alike, they don't eat alike and they don't fly alike! But they are still best friends! Let's listen and learn why they like each other so much!

Ant: Hey ladybug! Can you come out and play?

Ladybug #1: Why Thank you ant! I'd like to play. Can we invite my friend butterfly to play, too?

Ant: Sure, the more the merrier! Ladybug, why is butterfly your best friend? You are different in so many ways.

Ladybugs and Butterflies:

sing "We are Best Friends" (Tune: "Are You Sleeping?")

We are best friends, We are best friends,
I like you! You like me!
We don't look the same, We don't eat the same
But we're friends, Very special friends.

Ladybug #2: Yes, we are different, but we are the same in many ways, too.

Cricket: Pardon me for interrupting, but how in the world are a ladybug and a butterfly the same in many ways?

- Ladybug #3:** You're right, Cricket. We don't look the same, but as we grew up both our bodies went through changes that were very much alike.
- Butterfly #1:** That's true ladybug. Let's try to explain to our friends why we both look very different but are still very much the same.
- Ladybug #1:** Okay, how about this: I live in parks and gardens.
- Butterfly #1:** I do too! That's the SAME.
- Ladybug #2:** My favorite food is aphids. I can eat about 50 aphids in one day!
- Butterfly #2:** When I was a caterpillar, my favorite food were leaves. Now that I am a butterfly, I like to suck up the nectar from flowers with my long tongue.
- Cricket:** So, ladybugs and butterflies don't eat the same thing, that's DIFFERENT.
- Ladybug #3:** I came from a tiny egg about the size of a pin. My first meal were aphids.
- Butterfly #3:** I came from a tiny egg about the size of a pin, too. The first thing I ate was my own egg shell. Then I began munch, munch, munching on leaves!
- Ant:** So you both came from tiny eggs. Okay, you're both the SAME that way.
- Ladybug #1:** After I hatched from my eggshell, I was called a larva.
- Butterfly #1:** Hey! That's right. I was too!
- Cricket:** Okay! You're the SAME again.
- Ladybug #2:** First, I was white, but soon I turned black.

Butterfly #2: Oh dear! Not me. I was yellow and black and I grew very quickly because I ate all the time!

Ladybug #3: Munch, munch, munch, I ate all the time, too! As I grew bigger, my skin got too tight!

Butterfly #3: That's right! My skin got too tight, too! Our old skin split and we both had a new skin underneath. This is called molting.

Ant: SAME again!

Ladybug #1: I molted 4 times before I was fully grown. How about you, my friend butterfly?

Butterfly #1: You said it, old buddy! I molted 4 times, too.

Ant: I had no idea you guys had to molt. That must have been hard work!

Cricket: This is getting pretty interesting. Tell me more about the two of you.

Butterfly #2: Well, how about this! When I was a caterpillar, I was hairy and my body had thirteen segments.

Ladybug #2: Here's where we are the SAME again. I had segments too, when I was a larva. I also had 6 legs and a sucker at the end of my body.

Butterfly #2: But ladybug, we must tell our friends about when we changed into a pupa.

Ant: A what!?!

Ladybug #3: A pupa! When I got really big and fat, I was ready to change into a pupa. My skin split for the last time. Then I had a hard shell called a pupa underneath.

Butterfly #3: Yes, I did too. But my hard shell was called a chrysalis.

Ant: Okay, you both had hard shells, that's the SAME, but your hard shells had DIFFERENT names.

Ladybug #1: That's right, ant. My pupa was orange with black markings on it. Inside the shell I was changing into a ladybug.

Butterfly #1: Inside my chrysalis I was changing into a butterfly.

Cricket: Oops! Gotcha there! That's DIFFERENT.

Ladybug #2: It took me five days to change into a ladybug. When I was ready, I pushed from the inside until the shell split open.

Butterfly #2: Here's where we are DIFFERENT. I stayed inside my chrysalis for weeks then when I was ready I pushed until my case split open.

Ladybugs and Butterflies:

After we came out, we were soft and damp, so we crawled to safe places until our bodies and wings became dry.

Ant: SAME again!

Ladybug #3: I like to fly, but I don't fly very fast. I open my red wing case and beat my wings up and down.

Butterfly #3: I like to fly, too. I fly from flower to flower sucking up nectar. I don't eat leaves anymore.

Ladybug #1: I still eat aphids! I l...o...v...e aphids!

Cricket: This is truly amazing!

Ladybug #2: Yep! We are both insects too. We both have 3 body parts, 6 legs and antennae.

Ant: You two are so much alike! No one would ever know. I learned so much from you guys today!

Cricket: Yeah! I understand why you two are best friends now! You two don't look alike but both of your bodies went through many changes until you became adults.

Ladybugs and Butterflies:

Those changes are called metamorphosis!

All: Sing: Metamorphosis (Tune: "Are you Sleeping?")

Metamorphosis, Metamorphosis,
Now you see, now you see,
Why we are so much the same,
Why we are the best of friends,
You and me, Me and you!.