

Egg Carton Caterpillar

The larva (caterpillar) is the second stage of a butterfly or moth life cycle. These tiny creatures eat their way out of their egg casing and immediately begin feeding on their host plant. Caterpillars are extraordinarily hungry! They eat constantly, shedding their skin as they grow larger and larger. Many even eat the skin they shed! Some caterpillars look the same—only larger—as they grow, while others look like an entirely different caterpillar each time they shed their skin. Caterpillars can grow up to 100 times their original size before entering the next stage of their life cycle!

NGSS Standards

1-LS3-1. Make observations to construct an evidence-based account that young plants and animals are like, but not exactly like, their parents.

2-LS4-1. Make observations of plants and animals to compare the diversity of life in different habitats.

Materials:

Egg Carton

Green and Orange Paint (or your choice of colors)

Pipe Cleaner

Googly Eyes (optional)

Newspaper or tablecloth



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1. Start by gathering your materials and selecting a project space.



2. Paint the egg carton in your choice of colors. Consider adding spots or patterns.



3. Poke two holes in the top of the first egg cup (head of the caterpillar)



4. From the inside of the egg carton, poke a pipe cleaner through each hole and pull through. These are your caterpillar's antennae!



5. Draw or glue on round objects to make the eyes.