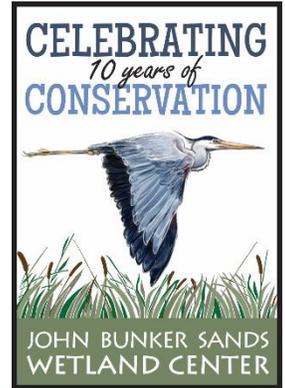


JBS in Your Backyard

Butterfly Life Cycle Activity: The Gulf Fritillary Butterfly



Activity: Complete Metamorphosis Life Cycle

Goals:

1. To help students learn that complete metamorphosis is the life cycle of the Gulf fritillary butterfly through observation of the butterflies in their native habitat.
2. To help students identify the different phases of the life cycle and the time it takes for the butterfly to complete its life cycle.

Equipment:

1. Butterfly Life Cycle Activity form
2. Scissors, tape/glue, colored pencils/markers/crayons

Duration: Approx. 30 minutes (could be longer depending on how many butterflies are in your backyard!)

Directions:

1. Print out the Butterfly Life Cycle Activity. This is helpful to take outside during the observation portion of the activity. Leave the other supplies at the work area.
2. Make observations as you watch along with the video. Feel free to also take time to observe butterflies in your backyard. This section takes as long as the students are interested in watching the butterflies in their habitat.
3. Have the students color the 4 different life-stage images at the bottom of the page. Cut the stages out (or help them cut them out) and place them in the right area. Make sure the stages are put in the right place before gluing/taping in place.

Review: Ask the students about their favorite part of this activity. Talk about each phase and the importance of host plants for butterflies.

Extensions:

1. Have students research a scary-looking caterpillar. Discuss the importance of not touching caterpillars because many of them are venomous.
<https://nature.discoveryplace.org/blog/be-careful-with-fuzzy-and-hairy-caterpillars>
2. Have students research the predators of Gulf fritillary butterflies and how the adult butterfly defends itself.
<http://bugoftheweek.com/blog/2015/2/23/beautiful-but-stinky-gulf-fritillary-iagraulis-vanillaei>
3. Create a fun game using the vocabulary words you have learned in this activity. You can create flashcards by writing the words on the front of paper cards and the definition on the back. You could also make a crossword puzzle with the words. Here is the vocabulary list:



Host Plant:	A plant that is food source for the caterpillar.
Habitat:	The natural home of an organism that provides food, shelter and water.
Predator:	A creature that eats by consuming another creature.
Caterpillar:	The life stage after the egg. Most butterflies are caterpillars for 2-3 weeks.
Chrysalis:	The pupa life stage; during this time, the caterpillar completely changes its form into the adult.
Metamorphosis:	A change of the form of a creature into a completely different appearance.
Native:	A plant or animal that originates from a location.
Venomous:	A creature that secretes a dangerous substance on its body.
Instar:	A phase of molting when the caterpillar sheds its skin to grow larger.
Larva:	An immature form of a creature; also called a nymph or caterpillar when referring to butterflies.

