

Processionary Caterpillars & Peacock Butterflies

Big World of Insects, Spiders & Bugs Series

Subject Areas: Science, Life Science, Biology

Synopsis: The amazing change from caterpillar to butterfly is seen close-up in this program. Processionary caterpillars are shown eating pine needles and building a large cocoon in a pine tree. These caterpillars burrow underground where they form a chrysalis and transform into moths. The fierce looking peacock butterfly caterpillar feeds on stinging nettles before forming a chrysalis. The beautiful butterfly emerges and finds nectar to eat.

Learning Objectives:

- Objective 1)** Students will be able to describe and identify the characteristics of an insect, including the three body parts and six legs.
- Objective 2)** Students will be able to describe the life cycle of a butterfly or moth, as it changes from a hungry caterpillar.
- Objective 3)** Students will be able to define the terms metamorphosis, chrysalis, cocoon, pupation and proboscis.

Vocabulary: Define and discuss the following key terms:

Canopy, processionary, cocoon, impenetrable, predator, ingenious, convoy, chrysalis, mutate, caterpillar, pupation, transformation, emerge, delicate, maiden flight, proboscis

Pre-Viewing Questions and Discussion:

- 1) What are caterpillars and butterflies? Have you ever seen a cocoon or chrysalis?
- 2) What does a butterfly eat? What does a caterpillar eat?

Post-Viewing Questions and Discussion:

- 1) Describe the processionary caterpillars. Where do they live? What do they look like?
- 2) Where does the caterpillar's silk come from? What is the silk used for?
- 3) What does the caterpillar's silk cocoon provide?
- 4) What do the processionary caterpillars eat? How do they make sure that they don't get lost?
- 5) What do the caterpillars do when their tree is stripped bare?
- 6) Describe how a group of processionary caterpillars travels. What is the leader concerned about? Where do the caterpillars go?
- 7) How are peacock butterfly caterpillars different from processionary caterpillars?

New Dimension Media

- 8) What do the peacock butterfly caterpillars eat? How long do they exist as caterpillars?
- 9) Describe the chrysalis. What happens to the caterpillar in the chrysalis? How long does this process take?
- 10) What does the butterfly do to expand its wings?
- 11) What does the peacock butterfly look like?
- 12) After coming out of the chrysalis, how long does it have to wait before it can fly?
- 13) What does the peacock butterfly eat?
- 14) What is the butterfly's tongue called? How is it used?

Additional Activities:

- 1) Draw detailed pictures of a processionary caterpillar, a peacock butterfly caterpillar and a peacock butterfly. On the butterfly label the head, thorax, abdomen, six legs, wings, antenna and proboscis.
- 2) Pretend you are a caterpillar. Describe your life as you get bigger and eventually form a chrysalis. Tell what happens as you are in the chrysalis and when you emerge as a butterfly. Also tell about what predators might come after you as both a caterpillar and a butterfly and what adaptations you have to protect yourself. Include illustrations with your story.
- 3) Research processionary caterpillars. Where are they found? Do they all eat the same kind of food? Are these caterpillars considered pests? Do they threaten forests? What are some natural predators? Present your findings in a report.
- 4) Create a picture collage of different butterflies and caterpillars.

FOR INFORMATION, OR TO ORDER CONTACT:

NEW DIMENSION MEDIA

A QUESTAR COMPANY

w w w . n d m q u e s t a r . c o m

680 N. Lake Shore Drive, Suite 900, Chicago, IL 60611

800.288.4456