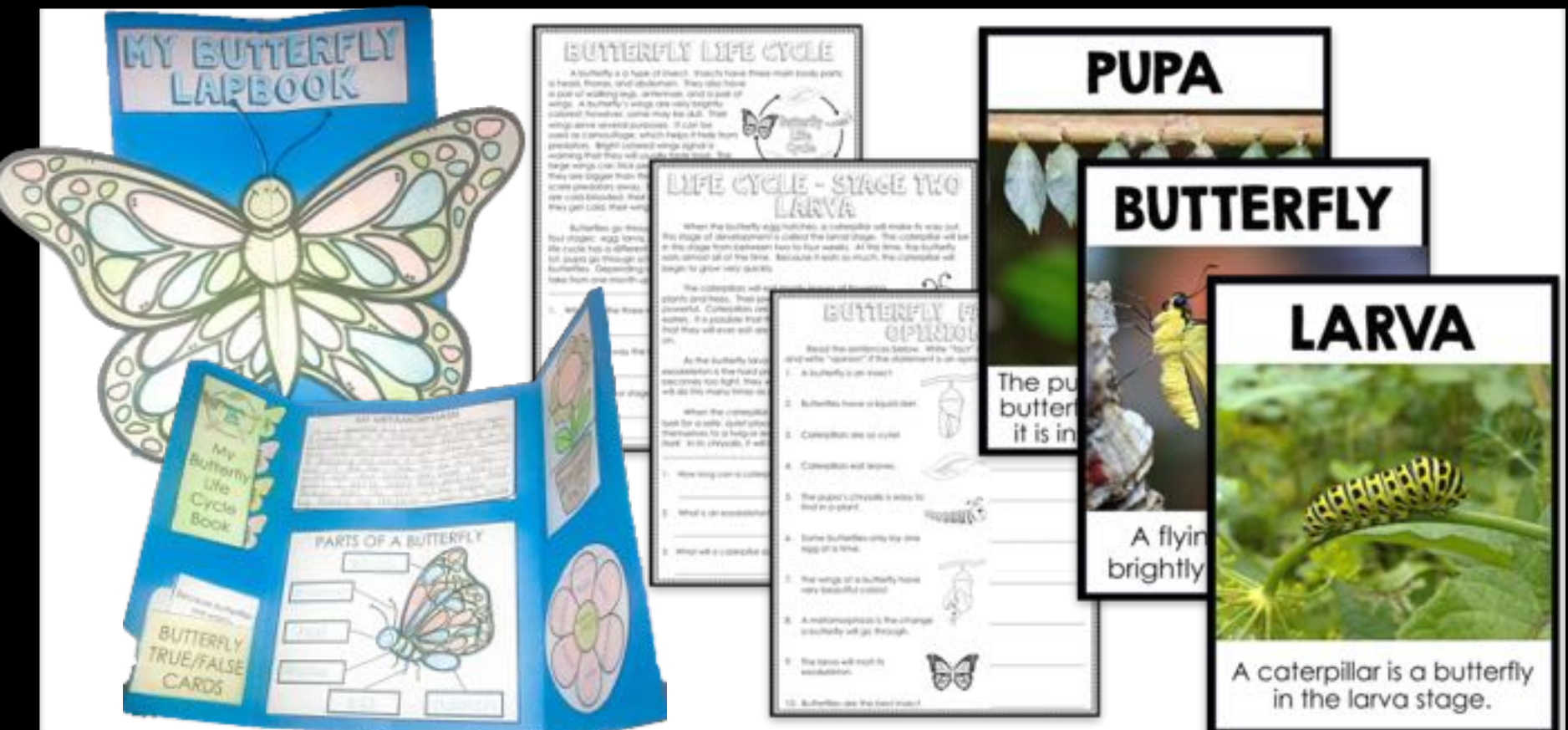


# BUTTERFLY LIFE CYCLE

READING COMPREHENSION PAGES,  
POSTERS, LAPBOOK, AND ACTIVITIES



# READING COMPREHENSION AND ACTIVITY PAGES

5 reading passages with comprehension questions.

### BUTTERFLY LIFE CYCLE

A butterfly is a type of insect. Insects have three main body parts: a head, thorax, and abdomen. They also have a pair of walking legs, antennae, and a pair of wings. A butterfly's wings are very brightly colored. However, some may be dull. Their wings serve several purposes. It can be used as camouflage, which helps it hide from predators. Bright colored wings signal a warning that they will usually taste bad. The large wings can also protect the butterfly from the sun. They are bigger than they really are. The bright colors protect them. Because butterflies are cold-blooded, their wings also soak up the heat they get from the sun. Their wings will help them warm up.



Butterflies go through an astonishing transformation four stages: egg, larva, pupa, and adult. Learn the life cycle and its different parts. For example, colors of pupa go through a huge change, and adults butterflies. Depending on the type of butterfly, this takes from one month up to a whole year.

1. What are the three main body parts of an insect?
2. Name one way the butterfly's wings help protect it.
3. Name the four stages of the butterfly's life cycle.

### LIFE CYCLE - STAGE ONE EGGS

A butterfly starts its life as a very small, round, oval or circular egg. The egg is so tiny so that if you look close enough, you can see the tiny caterpillar growing inside of it. The shape, color, and texture of the egg depend on what type of butterfly laid the egg.

Butterfly eggs are typically laid on the leaves of trees or plants. The butterfly lays the eggs on leaves because when the egg hatches, the caterpillar one close to food. The body caterpillar will even eat their own egg case when they hatch.

A female butterfly will lay many eggs during her lifetime. Some butterflies will lay only one egg at a time, while others will lay them in small clusters. A female can even lay hundreds of at a time! The butterflies lay many eggs because they know that only a few of those eggs will survive.



1. What shapes could butterfly eggs be?
2. What does the shape, color, and texture of the egg depend on?
3. What do the caterpillars eat when they hatch from their eggs?
4. Why do butterflies lay so many eggs at one time?

### LIFE CYCLE - STAGE THREE PUPA

The pupa is now in the stage in a butterfly's life cycle when it is inside of a chrysalis. While it is inside, it will not eat. Instead, parts of the caterpillar will turn into a liquid that will feed the butterfly as it grows. The pupa will stay in its chrysalis anywhere from a few days to several months.

While in the chrysalis, huge changes take place for the caterpillar. Its developed wings, eyes, tongue, and antennae that will feed it are formed.

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1. What happens to a caterpillar when it is inside a chrysalis?
2. How long will a caterpillar stay in its chrysalis?
3. What parts of a butterfly start to develop when the caterpillar is in a chrysalis?

### LIFE CYCLE - STAGE TWO LARVA

When the butterfly egg hatches, a caterpillar will make its way out of the stage of development it is called the larval stage. The caterpillar will be in the stage from between two to four weeks. At this time, the butterfly will eat almost all of the time. Because it eats so much, the caterpillar will begin to grow very quickly.

The caterpillar will eat mostly leaves of flowering plants and trees. They grow very powerful. Caterpillars are very picky eaters. They will only eat the leaves of the plant that their egg was laid on.

As they grow, their exoskeleton becomes tight. The hard protective shell that covers them. When it is tight, they will begin to molt, or shed their exoskeleton. They shed on a caterpillar.

When it is done growing, it will stop eating. Then, it will get close to where it will turn into a pupa. They will stick a wig or loop and weave a silk sock, or a chrysalis around it. It will begin the next part of its metamorphosis.

A caterpillar stays in the larval stage for \_\_\_\_\_ weeks.

\_\_\_\_\_ molts do when it is finished growing?

### LIFE CYCLE - STAGE FOUR - BUTTERFLY

An adult butterfly will emerge from the chrysalis. When it comes out, its wings are wrinkled and wet. At this time, the butterfly is not able to fly. It will begin to pump some fluid that is in its abdomen to the wings so they inflate. Then the butterfly will rest until its wings dry out.

Adult butterflies will only eat liquid food through a straw-like tube called a proboscis. Most butterflies drink flower nectar, spring water, or water from a puddle.

Some adult butterflies will migrate south to avoid the cold weather. Some will travel for distances, and others might just go a short way.

The life span of a butterfly depends on its species. A few types of butterflies live for a few days, while others can live between 6-12 months.

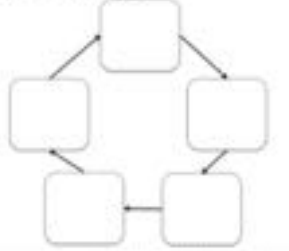



1. Describe what a butterfly's wings are like when it emerges from the chrysalis.
2. How will an adult butterfly eat?
3. Why do butterflies migrate south?

3 activity pages and a life cycle booklet activity.

### BUTTERFLY LIFE CYCLE DIAGRAM

Color the images of the life cycle of the butterfly. Glue them in the proper place in the diagram.

### BUTTERFLY FACT OR OPINION?

Read the statements below. Write "fact" if the statement is a fact and write "opinion" if the statement is an opinion.

1. A butterfly is an insect.
1. Butterflies have six legs.
1. Caterpillars are to cater.
1. Caterpillars eat leaves.
1. The pupa's chrysalis is made by the caterpillar.
1. Some butterflies only lay one egg at a time.
1. The wings of a butterfly have very beautiful colors.
1. A metamorphosis is the change a butterfly will go through.
1. The pupa will feed its metamorphosis.
1. Butterflies are the best insect.

### BUTTERFLY CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Color the crossword puzzle for using the clues and the word bank below.



**Clues**

**Down**

1. A hard protective shell that covers a caterpillar.
1. A straw-like tube that a caterpillar uses to drink.
1. A caterpillar's body.
1. A butterfly is a creature in the stage.
1. A tube that a butterfly uses through.
1. A body part used for flying.

**Word Bank**

metamorphosis  
the caterpillar  
chrysalis  
proboscis  
larva  
pupa  
wings  
antennae

### BUTTERFLY LIFE CYCLE BOOK

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

EGGS \_\_\_\_\_

PICTURE \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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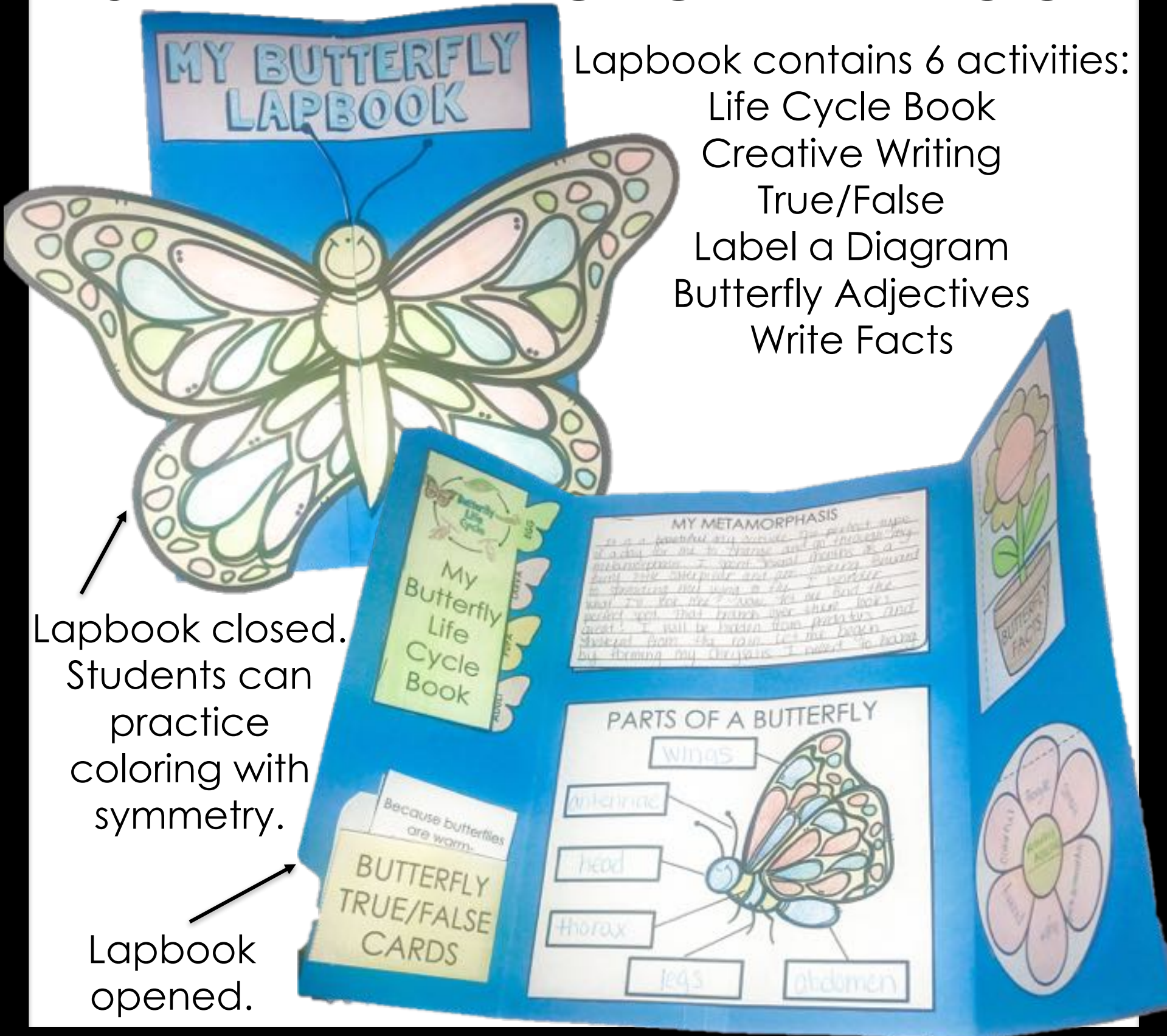
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# BUTTERFLY LIFE CYCLE LAPBOOK

Lapbook contains 6 activities:  
Life Cycle Book  
Creative Writing  
True/False  
Label a Diagram  
Butterfly Adjectives  
Write Facts

Lapbook closed.  
Students can  
practice  
coloring with  
symmetry.

Lapbook  
opened.



# BUTTERFLY POSTERS

## EGG



A butterfly starts its life as a very small, round, oval, or cylindrical egg.

## LARVA



A caterpillar is a butterfly in the larva stage.

## PUPA



The pupa is the stage in a butterfly's life cycle when it is inside of a chrysalis.

## BUTTERFLY



A flying insect with brightly colored wings

One poster for each stage of a butterfly's life cycle.

Includes a title, photograph, and description of each stage.