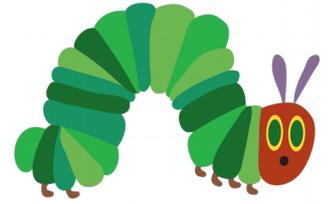


The Very Hungry Caterpillar Activity Ideas



These activities can be done over a week or more, with lots of reading of the book so children become familiar with it and can 'retell' it by themselves!

Watch the story on You Tube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=75NOK-Sm1YY>

Listen to the story on You Tube

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eXHScpo_Vv8

A small caterpillar emerges from an egg and begins eating everything in sight. Finally, it is no longer hungry and no longer small. The big, fat caterpillar builds a cocoon around himself and finally emerges as a beautiful butterfly. In fact, what Carle calls the cocoon is really the pupa or chrysalis. *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* is unique in that it actually has the holes eaten by the caterpillar. Like most of Carle's books, it is illustrated with tissue-paper collages resplendent with colour and detail.

INTRODUCING THE BOOK

Here are a few strategies for introducing the book to the children

Cover Story

Display the book and invite children to describe the caterpillar. **Ask Children:** Does he look happy? How do you think the artist made this caterpillar? Read aloud the title and ask: Why do you think the caterpillar is so hungry?

Page Flip

Invite children to flip through the pages of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. **Ask Children:** What do you notice that's different about this book? Talk about the holes in the pages and the different sized pages. Tell them that the author made the book this way on purpose. Ask children to think about why as they read the story.

READING THE BOOK

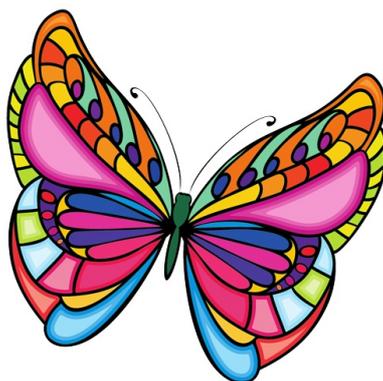
Try using these ideas after you have read the book at least once with the class.

Basic Concepts

- **Counting:** Invite children to count out the food that the hungry caterpillar eats each weekday. **Ask Children:** *How many things does he eat on Saturday? How many more things is that than he ate on Friday?*
- **Days of the Week:** Write down the days of the week and have children tell what the caterpillar does on each day. Ask volunteers to identify each day of the week on a calendar.
- **Back and Front:** Point out that the short pages of the book show both the front of the fruit on one side and the back of the fruit on the other. Ask children to point out other examples of back and front in the house.

Changes

- Review the changes that the caterpillar undergoes. Then ask if children can think of other things that change. **Ask Children:** Do pets change? How? Do trees change? Have you changed?
- Help children recognize that all living things grow and change.



AFTER READING THE BOOK

Make Caterpillar and Butterfly Crafts

Children can have fun retelling the story with their own caterpillars and butterflies.

Children can experiment with paint, paper, sticking and cutting to create their own artwork.

Or here are some ideas of activities that you can help them to do:

To Make Caterpillars: use discarded egg cartons, pipe cleaners, paints or markers.

1. Cut apart a carton to make a six-hump caterpillar.
2. Paint the carton including a face on one end.
3. Poke two holes for antennae and insert pipe cleaners.

To Make Butterflies: use basket shaped coffee filters, paints, pipe cleaners.

1. Fold the filter in half, then open it again.
2. Drip paint on the centre fold. Let it spread and dry.
3. Pinch the filter in the centre, then wrap a pipe cleaner around it to be the butterfly's body.

Online Activity ideas:

<https://buggyandbuddy.com/the-very-hungry-caterpillar-necklace-craft/>

<https://www.pre-kpages.com/activities-hungry-caterpillar/>