Carolina Quick Tips®

Butterfly Necklace

Students gain an understanding of the life cycle of the painted lady butterfly. They observe the growth and development of a larva in the butterfly necklace, a miniature habitat in which the larva eats, grows, molts, and forms a chrysalis. Then, they transfer the chrysalis into a larger habitat in which the adult has room to emerge.

- **TEKS HS**
  B.c.6.B: Explain the process of cell specialization through cell differentiation, including the role of environmental factors.
- **TEKS MS**
  6.b.13.A: Describe the historical development of cell theory and explain how organisms are composed of one or more cells, which come from pre-existing cells and are the basic unit of structure and function.
  7.b.13.B: Describe the hierarchical organization of cells, tissues, organs, and organ systems within plants and animals.

Materials Required

Painted Lady Butterfly Culture 33-Larvae/Food Set (144070)

Drosophila Sorting Brush (173094)

Small Cup (containing larva food)

Cup Lid (with string attached)

Paper Disk

Activity Procedure

1. Get a small cup containing larva food.
2. With a sorting brush, move one larva from the Painted Lady Butterfly Culture 33-Larvae/Food Set into the small cup.
3. Cover the small cup with a paper disk. Place a lid with string attached over the paper disk and secure it to the cup. This creates a butterfly necklace.
4. Observe the larva eat, grow, and molt in the cup over the next 5 to 10 days. After this period of time, the larva will climb to the top of the cup and hang in a “J” shape in preparation for forming a chrysalis. Once this happens, leave the cup undisturbed until 2 days after the chrysalis forms, so it has time to harden.
5. Open the cup, remove the paper disk with the chrysalis attached, and tape the paper disk inside a butterfly cage. An adult butterfly should emerge in 7 to 10 days.

Results/Summary

Once the adult emerges from the chrysalis, students will be able to observe its external anatomy and compare it with that of the larva and chrysalis. Visit our website for more information about the painted lady butterfly life cycle and about how to care for the adult.

Additional Information

View more information, content links, and products related to this activity at www.carolina.com/takeaways.



©Carolina
Carolina grants teachers permission to photocopy or reproduce by other means this document in quantities sufficient for the students in his/her classroom. Also for the purposes of classroom use only, teachers may make an electronic file or overhead transparency of any or all pages in this document.

CB133042509
Carolina is a registered trademark.

CAROLINA
UNLEASH LEARNING™