Our Goal

Our goal with this project was to assist Mrs. Becky Shofner at Turnbow Elementary School in Springdale, AR with a life cycle lesson. The second grade students were currently learning about life cycles of all living creatures. Mrs. Shofner enlisted our help to devise a creative lesson to allow the students to have a visual perspective of a life cycle. To accomplish this task, we decided to order live caterpillars from Insect Lore so the students would be able to see three stages of the Painted Lady butterfly’s life cycle, from caterpillar, to chrysalis, to an emerged butterfly.
OUR EXPERIENCE

We wanted the students to have a hands-on, discovery learning experience. Our first day inside the classroom, we discussed with the students what would be happening over the next few weeks, and completed an art project depicting a metamorphic life cycle. Each student was given four different types of noodles to represent a stage of the butterfly life cycle. The noodles were then glued to plates depicting each stage in the cycle.

With each visit, the students would observe any changes in the caterpillar’s appearance and surroundings. The observations would prompt a journal entry in which the students would describe what they had seen and predict what they expected to happen next.

Outcome

All of the student’s journal entries will be placed together in books that we will return to the class so they may keep them as a reminder of their discovery of a metamorphic life cycle and our time together.

Butterfly Fun Facts:

- She can lay up to 500 eggs.
- She may travel 1,000 miles in her lifetime.
- She tastes with her feet!
- She has 10,000 eyes. Wow!
- She breathes through her abdomen…interesting!!!