

hands-on lessons that

C is for Caterpillar

C is for candy and cabbage, crickets and caterpillars! Engage emerging readers with a fun story about a friendly caterpillar!

Grade Level: PK-1

Objectives

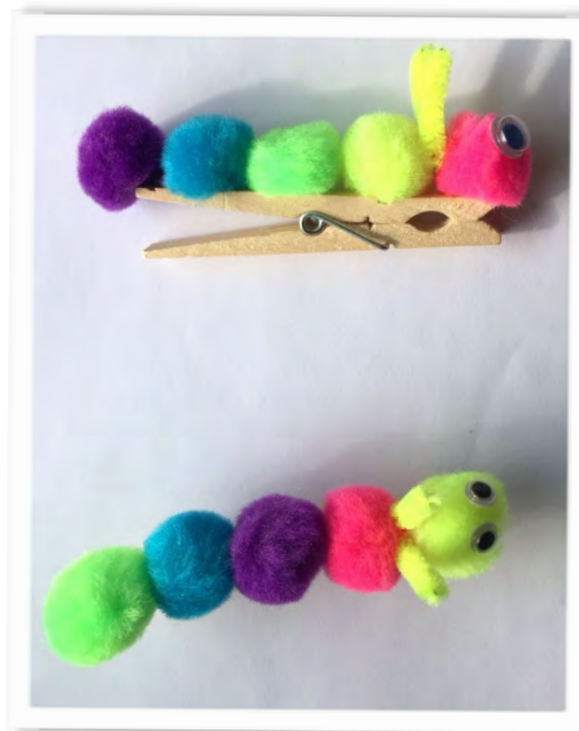
Students will identify names of objects that begin with the letter c.
Students will understand that all living things have a life cycle.
Students will create a colorful caterpillar.

Literature Selections

Clara Caterpillar by Pamela Duncan Edwards
The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle

Skills

fine motor skills, gluing, letter recognition, phonemic awareness



Set up and Prepare

Content Overview

Begin the lesson by writing the letter c on the board and demonstrating the sound. Next ask them if they can think of any words that begin with the letter. A great way to start this discussion is by calling out any names of students that begin with the letter c. Introduce the book *Clara Caterpillar* by Pamela Duncan Edwards to the students and ask them if they see any c words in the title. Explain that the author uses many c words throughout the book. Challenge the students to listen carefully for c words they hear as you read the story. Read the book aloud to the students. When you've finished, ask them what c words they remember. Explain that you will read the book again and you want them to clap (another c word) when they hear a word that begins with c. This integration of listening and physical activity is a great strategy to engage more than one part of the brain and reinforce phonemic awareness.

Read Eric Carle's *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* aloud to the students. Discuss the life cycle of the butterfly and explain that all living things grow and change over time. Introduce the word metamorphosis to the students and explain the meaning in the context of the story. How are the two books similar? How are they different?



Materials

Elmer's® Glue-All, pom-poms, jiggly eyes, pipe cleaners

Preparation

Cut the pipe cleaners into segments about an inch long. Provide each student with a variety of pom-poms and jiggly eyes.

Directions

Instruct the students to trace a thick line of glue along the top of a clothespin. Carefully place the pom-poms on the glue. Let dry.

Next, glue jiggly eyes to the first pom-pom. Apply a small amount of glue to the end of a pipe cleaner segment and attach it between the first two pom-poms for the antennae.

**Lesson Extensions**

Challenge students to find photos of things that begin with the letter c in magazines or newspapers. Ask them to cut the pictures out and clip them together with their caterpillar clothespin. Allow time for the students to share the photos they found. Then, create a collage using all of the pictures.

Introduce tongue twisters to the students sharing a few examples. Ask them to think of their own tongue twisters using words that all begin with the letter c.

Standards

CCSS: ELA-Literacy: Ask and answer questions about unknown words in a text.

CCSS: ELA-Literacy: Actively engage in group reading activities with purpose and understanding.