He Looks Nothing Like Mom!

Introduction

Although many babies look like their parents, some youngsters look nothing at all like their parents! These organisms go through a process called metamorphosis. Some animals, such as frogs and butterflies, change form completely. Others, such as dragonflies, start looking a little like their parents and change as they grow.

Materials Needed

- Construction Paper
- Paper towel roll
- 2 sets of Velcro dots
- Glue
- Markers or crayons

Key Concepts

- Offspring resemble parents.
- Some characteristics of organisms are inherited while others result from interactions.

For standards correlation please see our website.

Procedure

1. Cover a paper towel roll with construction paper. Draw antennas and eyes on one end of the roll.
2. From another piece of construction paper, cut out butterfly wings. Glue the center of the wings on to the paper towel roll. Decorate the wings on both sides.
3. Attach soft Velcro dots to the butterfly body between the two wings.
4. Roll the wings closed and attach two more Velcro dots to the place where the wings touch the other velcro dots.
5. Roll and unroll the wings to watch the metamorphosis.

Nature Connections

- Ask children to watch for caterpillars and pupas as they work in the garden or spend time outdoors. Discuss the different characteristics of caterpillars that the children find. Are they smooth or fuzzy?

- Beetle and butterfly metamorphosis have many similarities and differences. Ask older students to create a chart comparing the similarities between the adults and babies of these two species.

Additional Resources

Some great websites to visit and learn more about metamorphosis:

- **Butterfly School: Metamorposis**
http://www.butterflyschool.org/new/meta.html

- **American Museum of Natural History**
http://www.amnh.org/exhibitions/butterflies/metamorphosis.html

- **neoK-12: Metamorphosis Videos**
http://www.neok12.com/Metamorphosis.htm

- **The Butterfly Site**
http://www.thebutterflysite.com/life-cycle.shtml

Match Game

Introduction

The heart of *If You Were My Baby* by Fran Hodgkins, is the special relationship between parents and children, no matter what species they are! In this game, little humans and their adults match the names of animal babies and adults.

Materials Needed

- Index cards
- Pen
- Pictures of animals and their babies (optional)

Key Concepts

- Offspring resemble parents.
- Some characteristics of organisms are inherited while others result from interactions.

For standards correlation please see our website.

Procedure

1. First, make the match game cards. Write the names of these baby animals and their adults on separate index cards: bear/cub; deer/fawn; beaver/kit; fox/pup; bison/calf; skunk/kit; bat/pup; duck/duckling; goose/goslig; goat/kid; swan/cygnet; possum/joey.
2. Place the index cards face down in a grid that is six cards wide and four cards deep.
3. Youngest goes first. Pick up one card. Try to find the matching card. For example, if “fawn” is drawn, try to find “deer” as a match.
4. If a match is made, keep the pair and go again. If no match, put the cards back and play passes to the next player.
5. Continue until all the cards are matched. The player with the most matches is the winner!

Nature Connections

- Children can draw their own pairs of animal babies and parents. If you like, use pictures of adult and baby animals in the place of words; this will make the game accessible even to non-readers.

- Find out about other animals that teach their babies how to get along in the world. What do lions teach their young? How about whales?

- Have students look up the names of other interesting baby animals such as the alpaca, cockroach, codfish, eel, fish, hare, jellyfish, mouse, and an oyster.

Additional Resources

Some great websites to visit and learn more about wild animal babies:

National Geographic: Baby Animals
http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/photos/baby-animals/

Animal Planet: Baby Animals Guide
http://animal.discovery.com/guides/baby-animals/baby-animals.html

ZooBorns
http://www.zooborns.com/