

Terrific Topic

Hello Diamonds Class! I hope you enjoyed your topic activities last week, and are looking forward to this week's learning!

I have love, love, loved seeing your amazing Topic work on Zoom and on the blog - I'm so proud of all of you who have been working very hard! I'm looking forward to seeing more of your lovely pictures and sending you a message and a smile.

I'd like to stress again that the activities below are guidelines only — they represent what we would have done in class this week, with modifications for home learning. Please don't feel you have to do *all* these activities (unless you want to of course!) — pick and choose those your children would enjoy, or modify them to suit your family circumstances. Remember too, you don't have to do all these activities in one go — spread them out to suit your family's timetable and your child's concentration levels. These activities are for both year groups to have a go at, if they would like to (working to their own levels) but I have also included some more 'Early Years'-oriented activities at the end of the page, specifically aimed at Year Rs.

1. Listen to the "Butterfly Rap" on the video page, and watch the video of the butterfly emerging from its cocoon and talk about what happens. Can it fly straight away? What has to happen first?

Children to complete **Caterpillar Diary booklet** by describing the 'birth' of the butterfly— encourage them to think of the different stages as the butterfly emerges from its cocoon — either cut out the picture of one of our butterflies hatching (see pic at end) or draw your own. Can your child also write about what a butterfly eats? And how does it smell???

We are now going to complete our **3D butterfly metamorphosis**, by making a butterfly to emerge from the cocoon you made last week, and using the caterpillar you made before. Grown-ups, you might need to be a bit imaginative about making this work!! When I did it before, we attached the caterpillar and the butterfly together so that the butterfly was hidden inside the cocoon and as you pushed the caterpillar in, the butterfly came out of the other end (see picture below). I used a dolly peg and the cellophane-type packing stuff you get in parcels, but you could equally use something like kitchen paper, or tissue paper — anything your child can decorate with a **symmetrical** pattern on its wings, and that will fold up to hide in the cocoon. Also, your caterpillar does not necessarily **HAVE** to be attached—the caterpillar could creep in, and then the butterfly be pulled out. Another alternative would be to make a butterfly out of paper and roll it up hidden inside the tube to be pulled out when the caterpillar disappears.



Do these brothers and sisters remember making these??!!



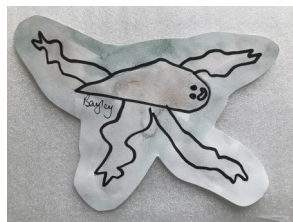
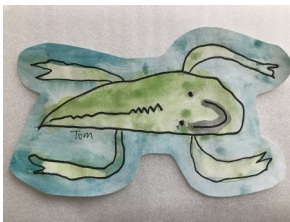
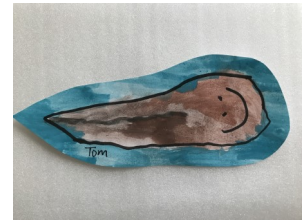
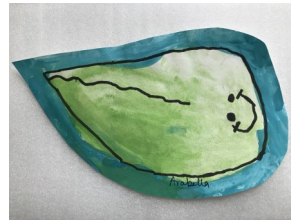
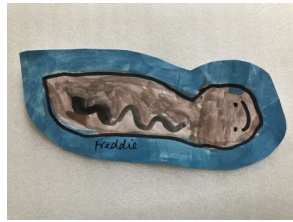
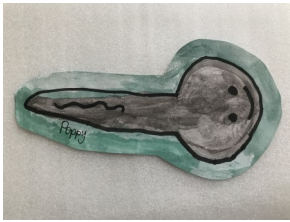
2. Tadpole Blues Art (you can do this in 2 stages if you wish)

Show your child the [Frog Lifecycle Video](#), and the [Tadpole Blues](#) song on the Video page and revise the different stages of the frog's metamorphosis.

Complete the [Life Cycle of a Frog](#) booklet, using the photos of our little froggies at the end of this document, or drawing your own...

Now you are going to paint your own [illustrations for the Tadpole Blues](#) song using watercolour paints if possible. You will need five stages — model how to draw them all on a piece of paper, using the pictures from last time as a guide: **tadpole ... back legs ... front legs ... tail getting shorter ... frog**. Use A5 or A6 size paper, as it's a lot of painting otherwise! Outline in black pen when dry.

When they're all finished, encourage your child to [sing the song to your family](#)—maybe to a grandparent on FaceTime, using their own illustrations if you'd like to make a video, I'd love to upload them onto the video page for you!



3. The Metamorphosis of a Tadpole into a Frog

Watch the video 'Growing Frogs' on the video centre then have fun making your very own changing frog.



- 1** Cut out a segment from an eggbox ((mine was a bit of a funny shape, so I covered the edge with masking tape to cover over the hole — they've obviously redesigned egg boxes!))

Cover your egg box with either brown paint (for an authentic tadpole colour) or skip the brown and go straight for green—either squares of tissue paper, or paint.

When dry, cut a longish triangle (either brown or green to match your eggbox) for your tadpole's tail. Cut a slit in the lower back and slide the tail into the slit. —give him eyes and a wide smile—you have a tadpole! Take photos of each stage of the metamorphosis to look back on when the activity is complete.



- 2** Make four legs out of pipecleaners (if you don't have pipecleaners, try twisty-ties or green garden wire, wrapped if you like). Nb you don't have to make toes — just fold the sharp end round in a circle.



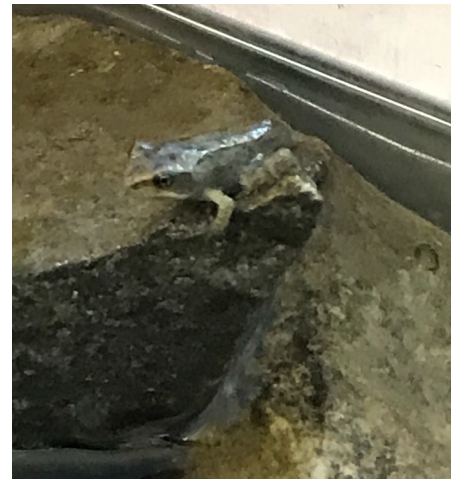
- 3** Add the back legs of your tadpole ... Her metamorphosis has begun!



- 4** Next, her front legs will grow — this stage is called a "Pollywog" in America! If you made a brown tadpole, you can start turning her green at this stage. Her tail will gradually get shorter as you push it in through the slit.



- 5** Bend your Froggy legs ready for jumping, and now your froglet is ready to grow into a frog! This is the one I've made, I hope you like her! You have now completed the Metamorphosis of a Frog, and your frog is now ready to lay eggs of her own — find the pond you made the other day, and sit your frog on her frogspawn! The life-cycle can begin again...



Photos for Butterfly, and Frog Life Cycle books, if you chose to use them.