

Terrific Topic

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

I wonder how your photo diaries of the creatures you've spotted are coming on? I've very much enjoyed looking at some of your work on the blog. I wonder who else will show us some of their amazing drawings, models or diaries this week? I'm looking forward to seeing them 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. Eric Carle Art Part 2: Collage Tulips

We worked together in groups to make our large tulip pictures last time—I suggest you stick 4 A4 pieces of card/paper together to make a dramatic piece of artwork—its also much easier for the children to cut out larger rather than smaller flowers and leaves. Prepare for this lesson by cutting your textured paper into quarters (A6 size) and sorting them into colours, remembering to cut some of your green shades into long strips for stems (if you didn't do green shades, you can always paint or draw the stems). Also make the templates out of thick card ready for your child to draw round and then cut out their flowers and leaves—our templates were roughly A6 size.

Show children the Eric Carle tulip picture again (see page below) – demonstrate on a separate piece of paper how the flowers are not just in a row like soldiers, but criss-cross behind each other, and this adds depth to the picture. Show their painted paper cut into A6 size and sorted by colour; strips for stems too; Show children how to use stencil tulip/leaf by laying it on back of paper and drawing round it and then cutting out – save green strips for stems, and they can use snippings for the 'dotty bits' above each flower. Encourage your child to create their own version of the Tulip collage, with flowers/stems/leaves criss-crossing to give depth.

Here are examples of the beautiful art the children made last time to inspire you!





2. Start off by watching **video 1** (on the video page) of a little boy from America talking about the caterpillars he looked after, and how they grew and changed. These are the same type of caterpillar as our Classroom caterpillars—Painted Ladies. For Literacy and Science this week, I'd like you to become a scientist, looking at the stages of our Classroom Caterpillars as they grew. You will need to look at the photographs (on the next page) very carefully, with eyes like Maria Merian, and **write a caterpillar diary**, describing the changes that you can see as the caterpillar develops into a chrysalis. You can either print the photos or carefully draw your own little wrigglers, using the photos as a guide. Use the attached PDF booklet format, or make your own book.

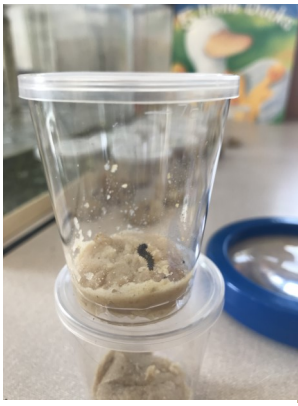
3. Watch the **Butterfly Lifecycle (video 2)** on the video page. Did you make your colourful caterpillars last week? This week they're going to **make their cocoons!** Many caterpillars roll themselves up inside a leaf to hide their chrysalis when they are about to turn into a pupa, so you will need to make a leafy hideaway for your caterpillar to pupate in. Find a used toilet roll (or lots if you've made lots of caterpillars!) and collect some beautiful leaves from your garden. Stick them all over your toilet roll to make a cocoon for your caterpillar chrysalis to hide in. Then keep it safe until next week, ready for the next stage of your Caterpillar's life-cycle. Here's the one I've made ...



4. **Maria Merian Part 3: Observational Watercolour**

Using the same butterfly photographs you drew from last week, this week look closely again, discussing the patterns, shapes, symmetry and now, also the colours — which colours can you see? is the 'green' the same all the way through? are there different shades of red? Stress to your child they're going to be using their 'scientist eyes' and their 'artist eyes', like Maria Merian—they're going to look and look and look and LOOK to get the shapes right and work hard to mix the right colours. Encourage your child to relate elements of their picture together — if they see a pattern of spots on one side, can they see and draw the same pattern on the other side; does the black dot have a yellow ring round it; are there five or 6 dots in a row etc? Use A4 size paper. Here are the pictures painted by the children last time to inspire you - can you make yours even better???





Day 1: 20 April



Day 1



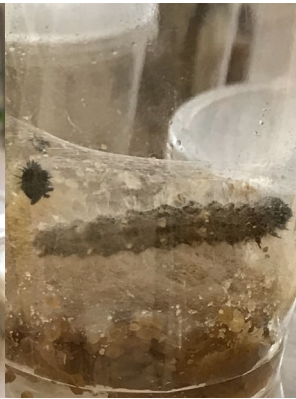
Day 4: 23 April



Day 4



Day 8: 27 April



Day 8



Day 11: 30 April



Day 12: 1 May



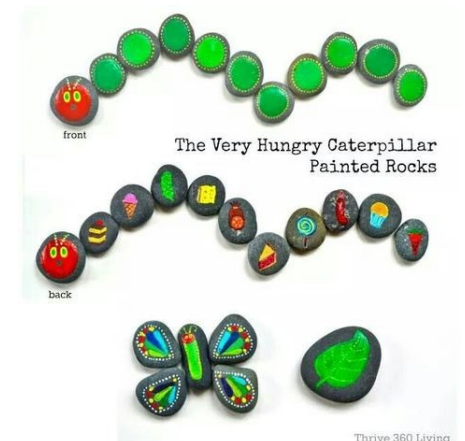
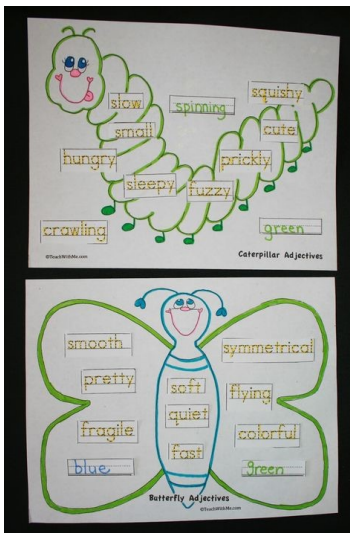
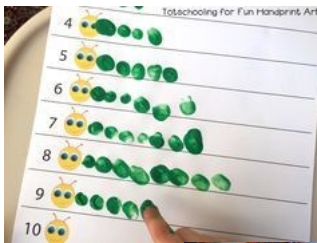
Day 13: 2 May



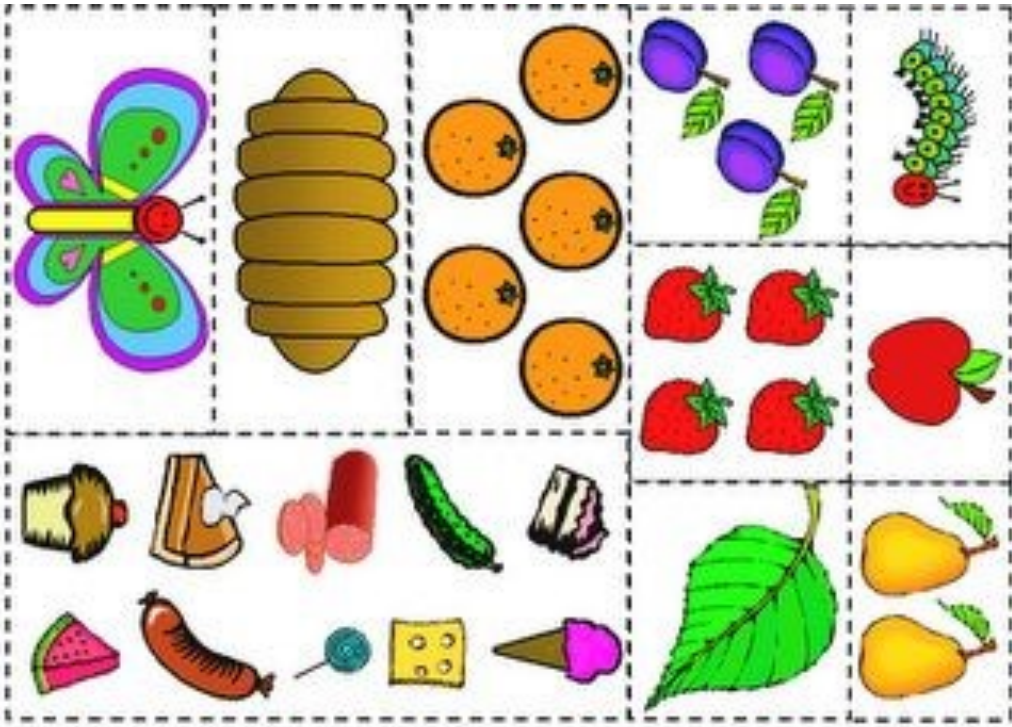
Day 13

And here are some extra activities for Year R (or for anyone who wants to do them!!)

For a Gross Motor Skills game see the PDF 'Spring Movements Cards'



Thrive 360 Living



The Very Hungry Caterpillar sequencing cards