

Grades 6–8

Tier B/C



ACCESS for ELLs®

Sample Reading Items: The Life Cycle of the Butterfly

Using this document

Review this sample item to gain a better understanding of the look, feel, and process of the ACCESS for ELLs Reading test. Use this item in any way that is helpful for you and your students. If practical for your classroom, WIDA strongly encourages you to do a full mock administration of this sample item, as a realistic administration can help prepare your students for the real test.

If you do plan a mock administration, set aside 30 minutes to explain the activity and allow students to answer the questions. Create materials for the mock administration by printing:

- One copy of page 1 for yourself.
- One copy of pages 2–4 for each student. (Print single sided)

Introducing the sample items

Explain to your students that they are about to complete a reading exercise. This exercise is similar to a test they will take in the future. The test will be their opportunity to demonstrate their English proficiency in reading, and this practice exercise will help them get ready for the test.

When the students are ready and understand what they are going to do, pass out the test materials. Each student needs a complete copy of the sample test items and a pencil.

Ask the students to write their name at the top of each page.

Monitoring the test

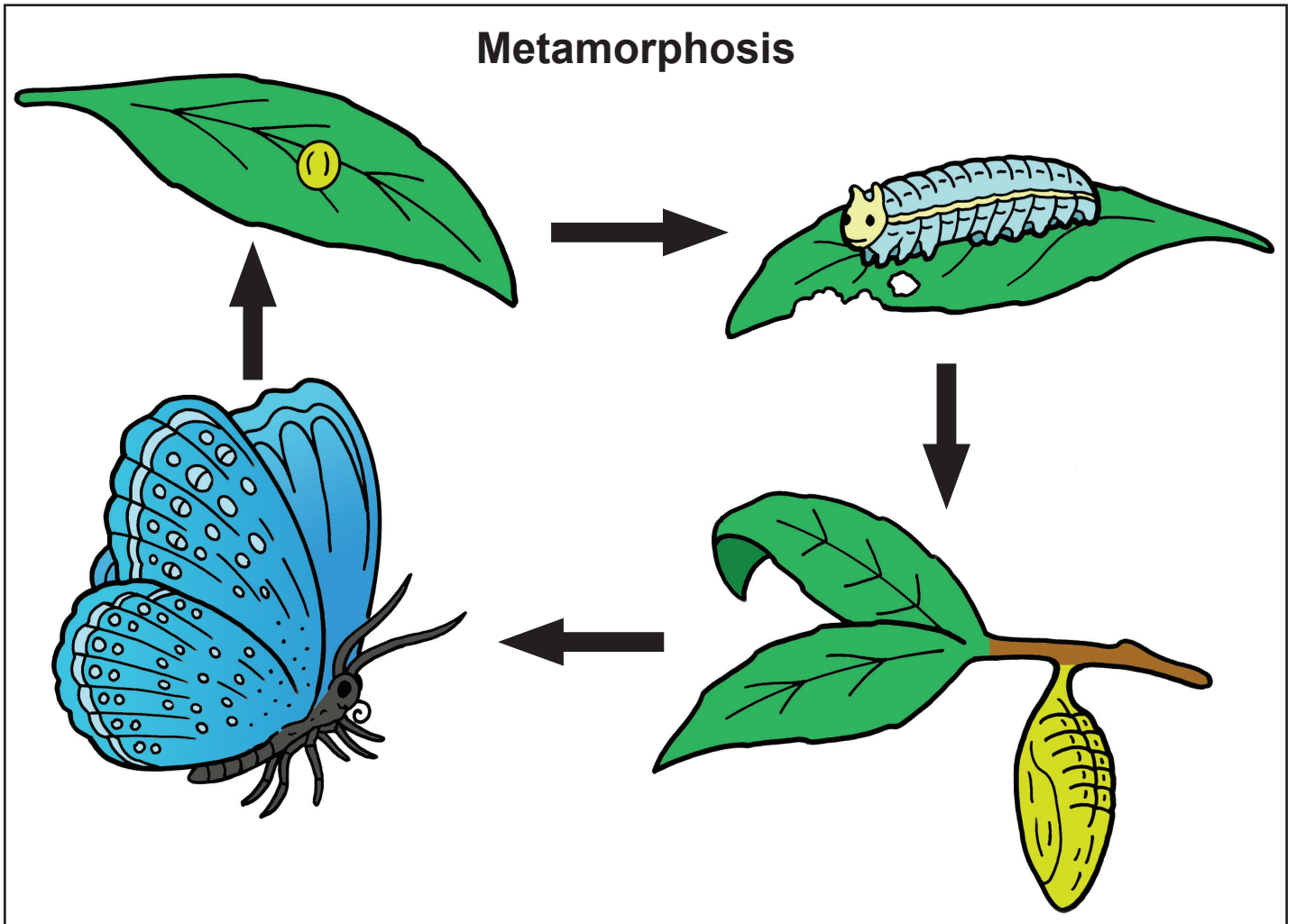
As you walk around the room and monitor the students' work, check to make sure that each question has been answered. Do not check whether responses are correct or not. If any responses are missing, point them out to the students and invite them to try again.

End the testing session by saying:

Please put your pencil down, and I will collect your papers.

Part D: The Life Cycle of the Butterfly

Butterflies are flying insects that undergo a complete physical change called a metamorphosis.



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A butterfly goes through many stages during its life. First, a larva comes out of an egg and starts to grow bigger. Next, during the pupa stage, the larva attaches itself to a twig and forms a hard outer shell. This shell is called a chrysalis. After many days, the butterfly emerges from its chrysalis as an adult.

According to the passage, which words show the correct order of a butterfly's metamorphosis?

- Larva → Pupa → Egg → Adult
- Egg → Larva → Pupa → Adult
- Pupa → Larva → Egg → Adult
- Egg → Pupa → Larva → Adult

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Look at the diagram. A larva has simple eyes, small antennae, and many legs. The larva also has sharp teeth and powerful jaws for chewing food. After it forms a chrysalis, a total transformation occurs. This transformation results in a fully formed butterfly with compound eyes, long antennae, and only six legs. It also develops a proboscis, or flexible tube, for feeding.

What is one physical change that occurs during metamorphosis?

- The number of eyes decreases.
- The number of teeth increases.
- The number of legs decreases.
- The number of antennae increases.

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When butterflies are young, their nutritional needs and eating habits are different from when they are adults. Larvae, or caterpillars, are ravenous eaters and quickly consume large quantities of food so they can grow rapidly and prepare for their metamorphosis. For example, as soon as a caterpillar is born, it eats its own eggshell and then begins to consume leaves on the plants around it. Caterpillars have specialized digestion systems that quickly process large amounts of food.

In adulthood, butterflies require less food than they did during the larva stage. Adult butterflies feed on liquids such as flower nectar to get the right nutrition so they can stay healthy.

Why are the eating habits of caterpillars different from the eating habits of adult butterflies?

- Because caterpillars need fewer nutrients
- Because caterpillars are usually very healthy
- Because caterpillars need a lot of food to help them grow
- Because caterpillars digest nectar slowly to help them change physically