

WHEN I WAS A BABY (LIFE CYCLES)

Dear Teachers,

When the Metroparks Mobile Learning Center visits your school, your students will have fun learning about how birds, butterflies, and opossum's grow up. Below is an outline of the activities your students will be engaged in during the "When I Was a Baby (Life Cycles)" program. Pre-visit activities are provided to prepare your students for the information we will cover.

School-visit Program Outline:

- Puppet show
- Dramatic play of baby bird growing up
- Discuss butterfly life cycle
- Dramatic play of caterpillar to butterfly
- Discuss mammal life cycle
- Opossum game
- Bring around opossum fur and skull
- Guessing game song

Songs: (To the tune of On Top of Old Smoky)

1
When I was a baby, (6)
I had a big egg. (5)
And when I had hatched out, (6)
For food I would beg. (5)

2
I ate all the crickets, (6)
I ate all the grubs. (5)
I grew really quickly, (6)
By eating those bugs. (5)

3
And then I grew feathers, (6)
They really looked nice. (5)
I flew for the first time- (6)
And only feel twice! (5)

4
And now I'm all grown up, (6)
You do understand. (5)
It was a big effort... (6)
D'you know who I am? (5)
(A bird!)

1
When I was a baby, (6)
My food was a leaf. (5)
I could not stop eating, (6)
Though I haven't got teeth! (5ish)

2
I shed and got bigger, (6)
Then made a cocoon. (5)
It felt kind of funny, (6)
Inside that ball-oon. (5)

3
I'm not made of butter, (6)
And I'm not a fly!. (5)
But now I am pretty, (6)
And I take to the sky. (5)

4
And now I'm all grown up, (6)
You do understand. (5)
It was a big effort... (6)
D'you know who I am? (5)
(A butterfly!)

1
When I was a baby, (6)
I lived in a pouch. (5)
10 brothers and sisters, (6)
Now that's a full house! (5)

2
With milk from my mother, (6)
I grew lots of fur. (5)
And soon I was riding, (6)
Like a cowboy on her. (5)

3
My fam-ly's all scattered, (6)
We went sep-rate ways. (5)
I wander for food now, (6)
By nights and by days. (5)

4
And now I'm all grown up, (6)
You do understand. (5)
It was a big effort... (6)
D'you know who I am? (5)
(An opossum!)

Group Discussion: Ask students if they look different now than they did when they were a baby. Ask what they think they will look like as a grown up, what will be different? When do they think they will be all done growing up? Ask general questions about how their parents take care of them now and how they took care of them when they were younger.

Matching: Print out the following images and have students match the babies and adults of the same animal.

