

Objective

The objective is to illustrate the concept of metamorphosis and change.

Materials

1 medium sized Balloon	Compressed sponge
Plain tissue or newsprint paper	(kitchen supplystore)
Colored tissue paper	Old newspapers
Paste – Buy a commercial mix or use	Saran Wrap
recipe to mix	1 gallon bucket for paste

Preparation

1. Mix up paste about 15 –20 minutes ahead of time. Follow directions of commercial mix or mix up a paste according to recipe.
2. Lay out newspapers over work surfaces.
3. Tear lots of strips out of the plain and colored tissue papers.

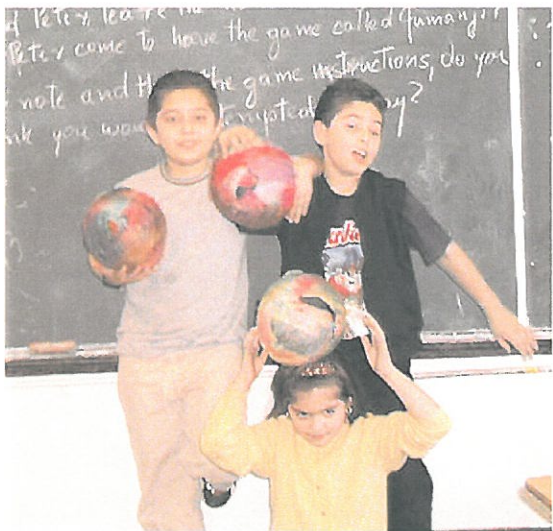
Activity

(Requires at least 4 adults)

1. Make butterfly or insect out of compressed sponge by cutting into the sponge according to diagram 1.
2. Insert compressed sponge into the balloon. You may need to stretch the balloon stem a bit to get it over the sponge.
3. In order for the sponge insect to grow, fill the balloon with water about 1/2 way and shake while holding the balloon closed.
4. Empty water.
5. Blow up balloon.
6. Cover balloon except for a 3-inch diameter window with strips of paper dipped in paste mix. Use paste sparingly or the cocoon will never dry out.
7. Work up 3 to 4 layers of the plain strips over the balloon and the insect without covering the window.
8. Cover the plain paper strips with 1 layer of colored tissue paper. You probably won't need to add anymore paste, as the colored tissue should just stick to the paste already all over the balloon.
9. Find a space to let cocoons dry for at least several days.
10. Once dry, pop the balloon and gently pull out. Look through your window to see the butterfly.

Discussion

Discuss the ideas of metamorphosis and change as they relate to the insect, the children and to other animals; how in some animals, a change or successive changes occur from birth to adulthood.



Guillermo, Alonzo and Janet with their cocoons



Daniel with his cocoon



Diagram 1: Compressed Sponge

