

Which Comes First

Materials Needed:

Copies of each of the bird life cycle images – egg, young nestling, older nestling, fledgling, adult – one set for the whole class.

Copies of the butterfly life cycle images – egg, caterpillar, chrysalis, adult – one set for the whole class.

Time:

20 minutes

Skills:

Science (life cycles)

Procedure:

Invite five students to come to the front of the class. Give each student one of the bird life cycle images – egg, young nestling, older nestling, fledgling, and adult.

Next, ask for the class to help you put the students in the correct order. Once you have the students/images arranged from egg to adult, ask students if the adult should actually come first because it is needed to lay the eggs. Move the student with the adult bird image to the front of the line.

Step back and look at the line of images – adult, egg, young nestling, older nestling, fledgling, adult. Ask students if maybe the fledgling should go before the adult because the fledgling is needed to grow into the adult? Continue this process until students suggest you put the students/images in a circle. Explain that this is a brilliant idea as this is a life CYCLE and cycles are repeating over and over!

Alternatively, you can do this same activity with the butterfly life cycle, or any other life cycle.