**AUTHOR:**

Eric Carle

This classic book is illustrated with colorful collages and die-cut pages. Counting, classification, comparison, nutrition, health, and metamorphosis are topics that can be introduced with this book.

Ages: 3 & up**Interest Level:** toddler to 2nd grade**ATOS Reading Level:** 2.9**Lexile:** AD 460L**ISBN:** 9780399226908**Copyright:** 1969**Genre:** Fiction**Classification:** Picture Story**Spanish Title:** La oruga muy hambrienta**Copyright:** 1994**ISBN:** 9780399254383

The Very Hungry Caterpillar

Count along with the very hungry caterpillar as he transforms from egg to caterpillar to lovely butterfly.

Topics: counting, days of the week, cause and effect, categorizing, comparisons

Math Connections: Use *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* to discuss sequences. Ask your child to retell the story. What did the caterpillar do first, second, next, later, and at the end?

Explore the idea of cause and effect by looking at what the caterpillar ate and how he changed over the week. Ask your child what changed on Saturday and how the caterpillar reacted. Ask your child what might have made the caterpillar feel better on Sunday.

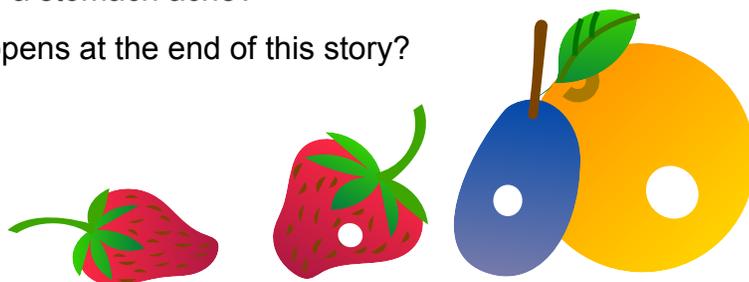
Count the fruit the caterpillar ate each day with your child. Count all of the foods the caterpillar ate over the course of the week.

Your child may also enjoy categorizing the food the caterpillar ate—for example, which foods grow on plants, which do not. Which of the foods have seeds? Which do not?

Look at the caterpillar as he changes throughout the story. Discuss the changes that occur from the time the caterpillar pops out of the egg to the day he becomes a beautiful butterfly.

Extension Questions:

1. How many days did the caterpillar eat? How long was the caterpillar in the cocoon? Did the caterpillar spend more time eating or in its cocoon?
2. What words did the author use to describe things that are small?
3. How many pieces of fruit did the caterpillar eat his way through between Monday and Friday?
4. How many pieces of food did the caterpillar eat his way through on Saturday? Which foods do you think gave the caterpillar a stomach ache?
5. What happens at the end of this story?



EARLY MATH PROJECT LITERATURE REVIEW

Vocabulary for Building Math Concepts	big, five, four, Friday, little, Monday, more than, one, out, piece, Saturday, slice, small, Sunday, three, through, Thursday, tiny, Tuesday, two, Wednesday, week
Vocabulary for Extending Math Concepts	bite, chunk, crumb, half, hunk, morsel, portion, scrap, sip, slice, sliver, slurp, wedge
Vocabulary for Reading Comprehension	beautiful, butterfly, caterpillar, cocoon, hungry, morning, nibbled, plums, salami, stomachache, strawberries

Early Math Project Resources:

[Very Hungry Caterpillar Counting and Classifying \(English\)](#)

[Very Hungry Caterpillar Counting and Classifying \(Spanish\)](#)

[Very Hungry Caterpillar Sensory Tub](#)

[Very Hungry Caterpillar Sensory Tub \(Spanish\)](#)

[Caterpillar Venn Diagram/Monarch](#)

[Caterpillar Venn Diagram/Monarch \(Spanish\)](#)

Online Resources:

[Read aloud by Eric Carle](#)

[Preschool Lesson Plans \(scroll down for the math lesson\)](#)

Age Level	Related Preschool Foundations and CA State Standards
Infant/ Toddler	Spatial Relationships The developing understanding of how things move and fit in space; Number Sense The developing understanding of number and quantity
Preschool/ TK	Number Sense 1.0 Children begin to understand numbers and quantities in their everyday environment.
Kindergarten	Counting and Cardinality K.CC.1, K.CC.2, K.CC.3 Know the number names and the count sequence. K.CC.4, K.CC.5 Count to tell the number of objects.

Also available in:

Afrikaans, Arabic, Aramaic, Basque, Bengali, Breton, Catalan, Chinese, Croatian, Danish, Dutch, Finnish, French, Galician, German, Greek, Gujarati, Hebrew, Hindi, Hungarian, Indonesian, Irish, Italian, Korean, Kyrgyz, Land Dayak, Maori, Norwegian, Panjabi, Persian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Samoan, Sign Language, Slovenian, Somali, Swedish, Tetum, Thai, Turkish, Urdu, Vietnamese, Welsh, Yiddish

Related Books: *Baby Goes to Market* by Atinuke, *Eight Silly Monkeys* illustrated by Steve Haskamp, *Counting Crocodiles* by Judy Sierra and Will Hillenbrand.

Find this book at your local library: https://www.worldcat.org/title/very-hungry-caterpillar/oclc/706940202&referer=brief_results

