

KWL and KWL Plus

What are KWL and KWL Plus and why are they important?

KWL (Ogle, 1986) stands for “Know,” “Want to know,” and “Learned.” In this strategy, students brainstorm information they know about a specific topic and then discuss and list information that they want to know about the topic. After students read the text, they write down information that they have learned. KWL Plus (Carr & Ogle, 1987) is an extension of the strategy that helps students organize and summarize important information from the text.

How can I use KWL and KWL Plus with my students?

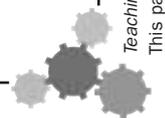
Discuss the topic of the reading with students. Encourage them to brainstorm information they know about the topic and list it in the K column of the chart. Then, help students develop questions about what they would like to know about the topic; write these questions in the W column. Next, have students read the text. After each paragraph or segment, have students list important information that they have learned in the L column, including answers to the questions. When the entire chart is complete, discuss what students have learned.

To continue with the KWL Plus Strategy, ask students to categorize the information in the L column, as shown in the chart below. In this example, CH stands for *how they changed*; L stands for *how they look*; and E stands for *what they eat*. Next, show students how to create a map of this information. The topic becomes the center of the map, and the categories represent the map concepts, with explanatory details (i.e., statements from the L column) included under each category.

Following is a completed KWL chart for the topic, caterpillars, with the statements under L categorized and labeled according to the order in which they will appear in a summary. The map and summary created from this chart are on the following pages.

KWL Plus Chart

K	W	L
Caterpillars turn into butterflies Caterpillars have antennae Caterpillars can be different colors Caterpillars eat plants Monarch caterpillars eat milkweed	What happens inside the cocoon? How do they move? What are some different kinds of caterpillars? Why do they eat? Do moth caterpillars change the same way as butterfly caterpillars?	(CH) Inside the cocoon, the caterpillar’s body turns into a liquid and then reforms into a butterfly. (L) Caterpillars have many sets of legs. (E) Butterflies eat nectar. (L) Luna moths have huge green wings. Monarch butterflies are orange, black, and white. (L) Butterflies and moths have antennae and long, sucking tongues to drink nectar. (L) There are many different moth caterpillars (luna moth) and butterfly caterpillars (monarch). (L) Luna moth caterpillars are large and green. Monarch caterpillars are black, yellow, and white with stripes. (E) Caterpillars eat a lot of food. (E) Caterpillars eat leaves, fruits, and vegetables. (CH) Butterflies come out of chrysalises and moths come out of cocoons. (CH) Caterpillars turn into butterflies through a process called metamorphosis.



Name: _____ Date: _____

KWL Plus Map and Summary

CH (A)

2. Inside the chrysalis the caterpillar's body turns into a liquid and then reforms into a butterfly.
3. Butterflies come out of chrysalises and moths come out of cocoons.
1. Caterpillars turn into butterflies and moths through a process called metamorphosis.

L (B)

2. Caterpillars have many sets of legs.
5. Lunar moths have huge green wings.
7. Monarch butterflies are orange, black and white.
3. Butterflies and moths have antennae and long, sucking tongues to drink nectar.
1. There are many different moth caterpillars (lunar moth) and butterfly caterpillars (monarch).
4. Lunar caterpillars are large and green.
6. Monarch caterpillars are black, yellow, and white with stripes.

Caterpillars

E (C)

3. Butterflies eat nectar.
1. Caterpillars eat a lot of food.
2. Caterpillars eat leaves, fruits, and vegetables.

Summary (see next page)



Name: _____ Date: _____

KWL Plus Summary

Caterpillars are interesting. Caterpillars turn into butterflies and moths through a process called metamorphosis. Inside the cocoon or chrysalis, the caterpillar's body turns into a liquid and then into a butterfly. Butterflies come out of chrysalises and moths come out of cocoons. Caterpillars are fun to watch.

Even though there are many different moth and butterfly caterpillars, they are alike in some ways. Caterpillars have many sets of legs. Butterflies and moths have antennae. They also have long, sucking tongues to drink nectar. It is interesting to see the similarities.

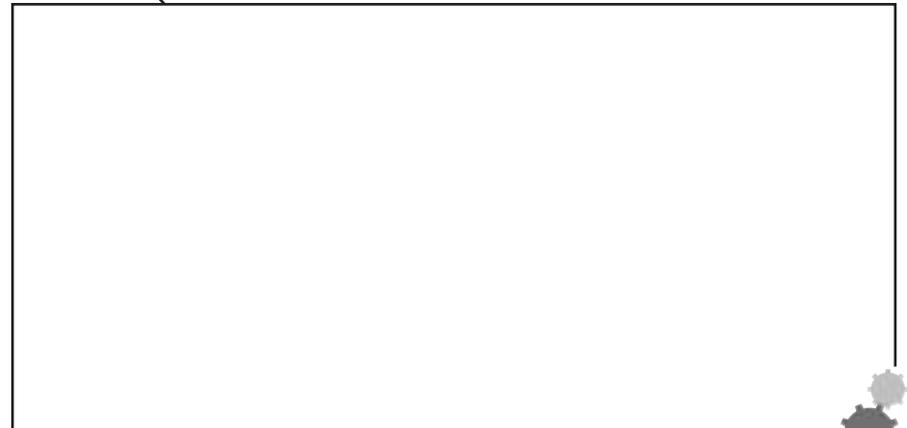
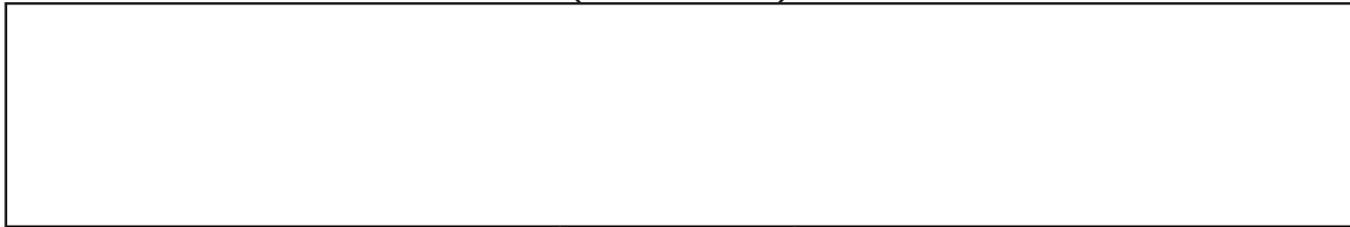
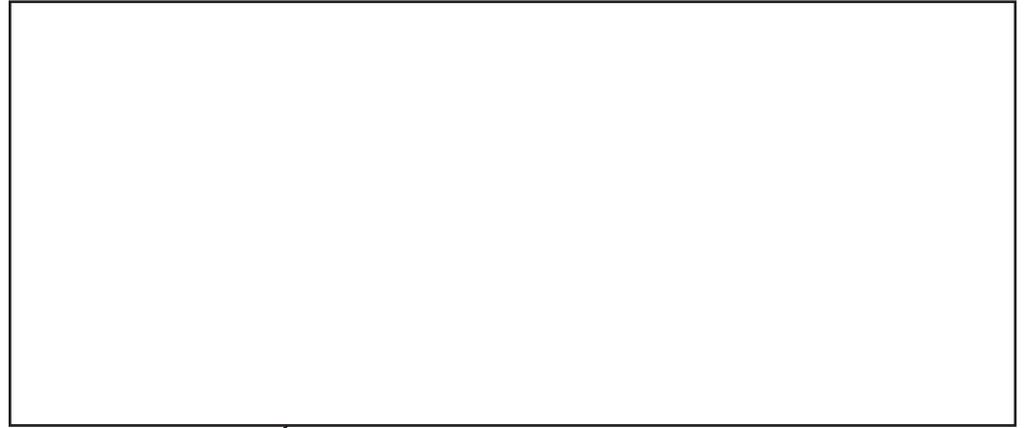
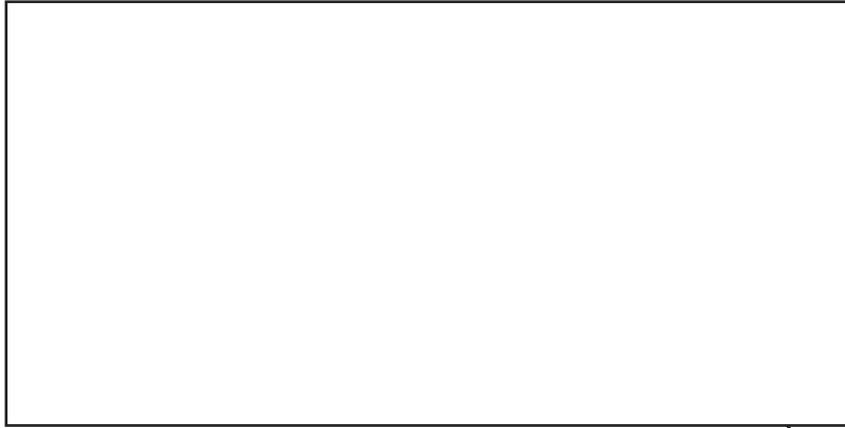
Caterpillars are different in many other ways. Lunar caterpillars are large and green. Lunar moths have huge green wings. On the other hand, Monarch caterpillars are black, yellow, and white with stripes. Monarch butterflies are orange, black and white.

Caterpillars need nourishment to go through metamorphosis. They eat a lot of food. Caterpillars eat leaves, fruit and vegetables. Butterflies, however, eat nectar. There are many ways caterpillars, moths, and butterflies receive nourishment.



Name: _____ Date: _____

KWL Plus Map



Name: _____ Date: _____

KWL

Know	Want to Know	Learned