

Skills

Students will:

- ✦ observe and record natural cycles
- ✦ record events in sequential order
- ✦ demonstrate knowledge of stages

Purpose

The Focus on a Cycle graphic organizer helps children to recall, organize, and visualize the sequential steps to a process. They come to realize that not all processes have a beginning, middle, and end, but are continual.

How to Use the Organizer

Introduce this organizer by asking children to consider a well-known cycle, such as the pattern of a typical school day. (If you use the school day, ask for general events such as arriving at school, working in the classroom, lunch, recess—so as not to invite discussion concerning minor variations.) As children tell you the major events in order, draw picture representations clockwise around the interior edge of the magnifying glass. Help them to draw the conclusion that Monday through Friday, they take part in a cycle. Next, ask children to consider the cycle they are currently studying in science and to depict it on this organizer. Once children are familiar with the organizer, you might suggest that they observe cycles in nature and record their findings on the organizer. Focus on a Cycle also lends itself to determining students' misconceptions about scientific cycles. Have children fill one out at the beginning of a unit of study to discover what they do know, and then again at the end of the unit to measure what they have learned.

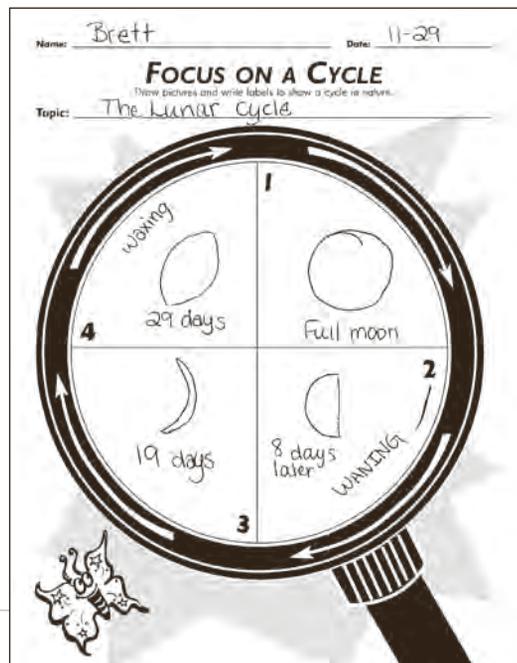
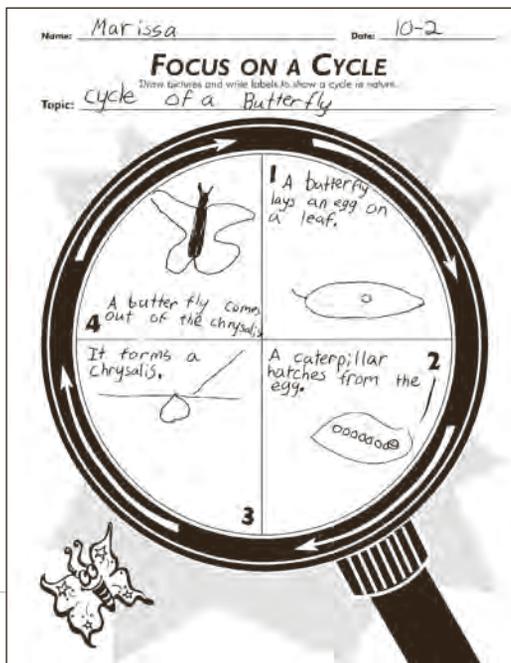
Examples

Primary Grades

A third grader observed the life cycle of a butterfly and recorded her findings on the Focus on a Cycle graphic organizer.

Intermediate Grades

Small groups of fifth graders were asked to observe and keep a monthly journal of the moon's activity. When the month had passed, students compared their findings and presented their new knowledge on this organizer.



Name: _____ Date: _____

FOCUS ON A CYCLE

Draw pictures and write labels to show a cycle in nature.

Topic: _____

