

# Simple Cycles

## Using Inspiration to Map Cyclical Events

### OBJECTIVES

- Create a cyclical map
- Recognize links between separate events
- Understand structural patterns

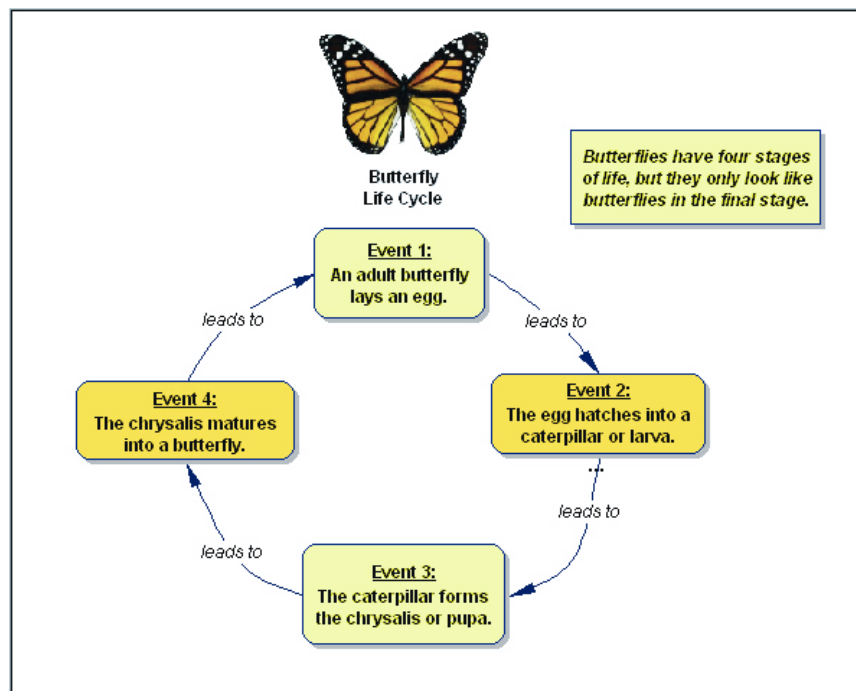
### MATERIALS

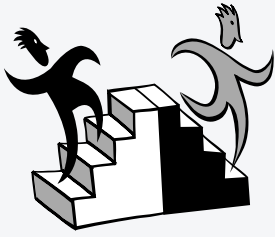
- Inspiration software
- Simple Cycles Planning Sheet
- Simple Cycles Template
- Simple Cycles Sample Activity

**Note:** Be sure to review the Simple Cycles Template and Sample Activity and make modifications to suit the needs of your students and situation. Explore the Internet Connection section to browse additional resources on teaching about cycles used in history, science, or literature.

*The simple cycles of life surround us. The ugly caterpillar evolving into the graceful butterfly and the salty sea water evaporating into our atmosphere are examples of the cycles ever present in our world. Scientists study the logical organization of cycles, and noted historians follow the cause and effect relationships of our cyclical history. Learning how to organize information into cyclical maps becomes critical in understanding patterns and organizing complex data.*

*In this lesson, students learn the importance of mapping cycles and use Inspiration to create graphic organizers illustrating the cyclical process.*





## Customizing to Meet Your Needs

- Encourage younger students to reflect on simple cycles in their own lives such as mapping their own daily routines or creating a cycle to illustrate the plot of a familiar story such as *Cinderella*.
- Older students might want to use the **Text** tool to add additional details to their cyclical maps.

## Before the Computer

1. In a whole group setting, introduce the concept of mapping cycles by demonstrating the life cycle of a butterfly. Use the Simple Cycles Sample Activity to illustrate the four stages of life and explain how cyclical maps help us to better visualize cause and effect relationships.
2. Ask students to volunteer other examples of cycles demonstrated in science such as the water or plant cycles. Encourage students to think beyond science and to consider cycles evident in other disciplines. In language arts, for example, students could create a cyclical map illustrating story plot events or character growth. In social studies, cyclical maps might display the causes of the Civil War or the legislative process.
3. Next, distribute the Simple Cycles Planning Sheet. Instruct students to select a cycle in science, language arts, or social studies to map. Allow time for students to research their selected topics in order for them to align the data with the appropriate cyclical events.
4. Remind students that the goal of these cyclical maps is to develop a simple visual display of a more complex process. Explain that their challenge is to show the cyclical events at the most basic level before providing more complex explanations.

## At the Computer

1. Direct students to the Simple Cycles Template and instruct them to rename and save the file in the appropriate location.
2. Next, instruct students to enter the title of their simple cycles in the symbol labeled “Cycle Title.” Then tell them to enter the first phase of the cyclical event into the symbol labeled “Event 1.”
3. Tell students to enter the remaining phases in order into the appropriate symbols.
4. Then guide them in customizing their Inspiration cycle maps with selected clip art from the **Symbol** library or by importing graphics from other sources. Encourage students to be creative with color, shapes, and fonts.
5. Remind students to use the **RapidFire** tool to add extra symbols as needed.

6. Explain to students how to use the **Transfer** tool to transfer their cycle map to a word-processing application so they can quickly and easily include their maps in science labs or research reports.

## Other Great Activities

- Use the Simple Cycle Template to help students in creating an autobiographical cycle map of their own lives. Encourage them to scan pictures of themselves in order to visually track their maturity.
- Incorporate the Simple Cycle Template into science lab time and remind students how they can use the template to demonstrate cause and effective relationships in their science experiments.
- Use the Simple Cycle Template to map progress in school projects such as producing a yearbook or the tasks involved in publishing a school newspaper. Post these cycles on a bulletin board to share with the school community.

### Internet Connection

[http://www.education-world.com/a\\_lesson/01-1/lp237\\_01.shtml](http://www.education-world.com/a_lesson/01-1/lp237_01.shtml)

Browse these life science lesson plans for more ideas on teaching about life cycles.

<http://lessonplanet.teacherwebtools.com/search/Science/Animals/startat10/>

View more lesson ideas on cycles including teaching about weather, animal life cycles, and seasons

[http://www.a0kteacherstuff.com/social\\_studies.htm](http://www.a0kteacherstuff.com/social_studies.htm)

Visit this site to navigate lessons featuring the cycles of history.



### Tips & Timesavers

- The **Symbol palette** appears automatically when you open Inspiration. Occasionally, you will want to hide it if it is in the way.
- To transfer work to a word processor, click the **Transfer** button on the toolbar or select **Transfer to Word Processor** from the **File** menu.