



Ladybirds, caterpillars and butterflies

Learning objective: to find out that insects have six legs.

What you need

Newspaper; white wax candles or crayons; leaf; leaf template; white card; scissors; paint in various colours; felt-tipped pens and crayons; black sugar paper; black pipe-cleaners; red and white paper; sequins; cotton; stapler; black and red letters; PVA glue; information books about insects.

What to do

Share the information books. Count the spots on the ladybirds. Do they all have the same number of spots? What do the children notice about the number of legs that the insects have? Tell them that all insects have six legs. Ask them to help you make a display which shows some of the insects around us.

If possible, mount this display around a doorway, as this provides the ideal shape for creating a hedgerow. Make branches and twigs from rolled-up sheets of newspaper and ask the children to paint them brown. Staple into position around the display space.

Let the children make large leaves. Show them how to press down hard with a wax crayon or candle to draw on veins, then paint over the veins with a thin green paint wash. Attach the leaves to the branches.

Give each child a ladybird outline cut from black sugar paper and ask them to paint it red. When dry, paint a thick black line down the centre. Let the children decide how many spots they would like to give their ladybird, then help them to cut the spots from black sugar paper and glue them on in symmetrical patterns. Staple the ladybirds among the leaves.

For the caterpillars, draw four circles, slightly overlapping, on white paper. Ask the children to paint three adjoining circles in green, and the last one in red.

