

Ladybird story

a Sensory Trust sensory story activity



To experience a sensory story on the lifecycle of a ladybird



Learning outcomes

- * Sensory experiences in relation to the lifecycle of a ladybird.
- * Science – developing an understanding of the nature and processes of an insect lifecycle
- * Listening skills and turn-taking
- * Sequencing



Why

Stimulating the senses during learning activates more areas of the brain and repetitive words create more neural pathways in the brain by associating the words and sensory input. Cognition naturally follows.

The activity builds resilience, enabling students to:

- * Predict a good experience of something new
- * Develop life skills
- * Foster their talents



Senses

This activity focuses on the following senses:



touch sight smell proprioception



Who

This activity is suitable for all ages and key stages and is adaptable for all abilities.

It can be done individually, small groups and full classes.



Sensory Trust

Sensory Trust promotes and supports the creation and management of outdoor spaces that can be used and enjoyed by everyone, regardless of age or ability.



What you will need

The Sensory Story – Ladybird Lifecycle and associated sensory experiences:

- * Green felt leaf with yellow balls with hook dots for attaching
- * Flip card with increasing size pictures of larva or pictures of different size larva included in the workbook
- * Lifecycle model
- * Soft toy ladybirds and small bag
- * Camouflage sheet
- * Cooked asparagus or bell pepper water
- * Feedback form



Preparation

1. Make sure all the components of the story are ready and in the right order.
2. If you do not have the ladybird flip book, cut out the different sizes of larva from the pictures

provided in the workbook.

3. We have provided a smell pot but you may need to refresh at some point. To prepare the smell experience boil some asparagus or bell peppers in water and use the water – it smells like ladybird feet!



Expanding the activity

Use the sensory ingredients and see if the students can put the story together in the correct order using just the sensory experiences.

Make up a sensory story about a ladybird or other insects.

Go on a scavenger hunt for materials that a ladybird might hide under or search for a good place a ladybird might lay eggs.



Duration

30 to 60 minutes

Nature Friendly Schools This activity has been developed as a part of Nature Friendly Schools



Levels of engagement

The following instructions are written for students with different levels of engagement:

- * **Sensory learners** - learner working at the lower end of the p-scales
- * **Semi-formal learners** – learners working across a range of p-scales

- * **Formal learners** – learners working at the top end of the p-scales into national curriculum related expectations

Follow the instructions for each step. Show and explain the activity in a way most suited for your students.

We have developed some worksheets to go alongside the activities. They are differentiated for various abilities. In the top left hand corner there is one, two or three spirals. The number of spirals increase with the difficulty of the worksheet. @@@



Sensory

1. Read the story sentence by sentence, slowly and deliberately. For each sentence there will be a sensory item to match the sentence. Once you have spoken the sentence pass the sensory stimulus around the group repeating the sentence as each student experiences it.
2. Repeat the story daily for a week or a couple of times a day over a few days. After the 7th or 8th time sensory learners can begin to predict and anticipate the actions with the words, creating excitement.



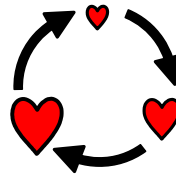
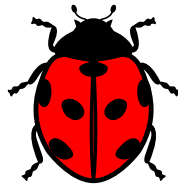
Semi-
formal

1. Read the story sentence by sentence, slowly and deliberately. For each sentence there will be a sensory item to match the sentence. Once you have spoken the sentence pass the sensory stimulus around the group repeating the sentence as each student experiences it.
2. Can they remember the next line in the story after repeated telling?



Formal

1. Read the story sentence by sentence, slowly and deliberately. For each sentence there will be a sensory item to match the sentence. Once you have spoken the sentence pass the sensory stimulus around the group repeating the sentence as each student experiences it.
2. Can they anticipate the next line in the story?
3. Cut up the written story or use the single sentences if you have used them in the Sensory Trail boxes and see if the students can put the story back together in the correct order.
4. Can they make up their own story using a few sentences and thinking of an experience to go along with it?
5. Talking Points: The most common species of ladybird is the bright red 7 spot ladybird but there are 46 other types in the UK. The bright red colour is a warning to other animals that they are not good to eat. Ladybirds also use their smelly feet to walk around their eggs once laid as a warning to other ladybirds and possible predators (other creatures that may eat the ladybird eggs) to stay away.



Ladybird Life Cycle

Story (including Teacher Notes)	7
Story (with visuals)	8 - 9
Order the Story Stages Worksheet*	10 - 13
Predator vs Prey Worksheet*	14
Ladybird Food Chain Worksheet*	15-16



Ladybird Life Cycle Sensory Story

Warm weather means ladybirds crawl out from winter hiding.

(use fingers in a crawling motion along young persons forearm or make crawling movements with hands in the air)

They are hungry and look for food. Can you hear them chomping?

(make the sound of chomping)

Their bright red colour means "Stop birds, don't eat me!", but really birds dislike ladybird's smelly feet!

(pass around the smell of asparagus water or cooked bell pepper – pyrazine)

In the Spring the ladybirds lay tiny yellow eggs on the underside of leaves.

(green felt leaf and yellow balls with hook dots)

In just a week the eggs hatch into larvae, getting bigger and bigger and bigger.

(flip card with increasing larva size)

Their skin turns hard, protecting the growing ladybirds inside.

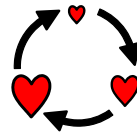
(life cycle model)

When the ladybirds are ready, they eat lots of pests all summer long.

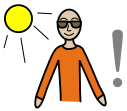
(ladybird models to be emptied from bag)

In the autumn ladybirds huddle together, hidden under leaves.

(waft smell and all gather under the camouflage cover)



Ladybird Life Cycle



Warmer



weather



brings



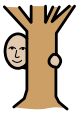
ladybirds



crawling out



from their winter



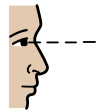
hiding place.



They are



hungry and



look for



food.



Can you



hear



them



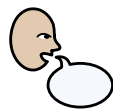
chomping?



Their bright



red colour



means



"stop



birds,



don't eat



me!"



but really



birds



dislike



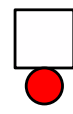
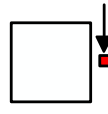
the ladybirds'



smelly



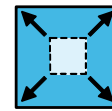
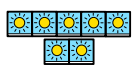
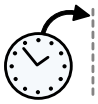
feet.



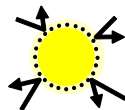
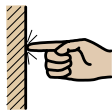
In the spring, the ladybirds lay tiny yellow eggs on the underside



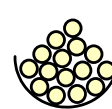
of leaves.



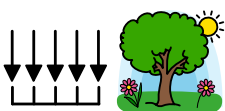
In just a week, the eggs hatch into larvae, getting bigger and bigger.



The skin turns hard, protecting the growing ladybirds inside.



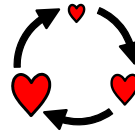
When the ladybirds are ready, they eat lots of pests



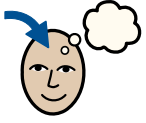
all summer long.



In the autumn, ladybirds huddle together, hidden under the leaves.



Ladybird Life Cycle



to be able to recall the story about the ladybird life cycle, and reorder the key sentences.

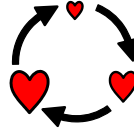
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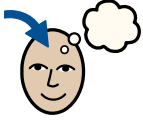
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4

5



Ladybird Life Cycle



to be able to recall the story about the ladybird life cycle, and reorder the key sentences.

6

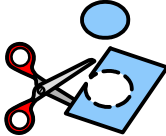
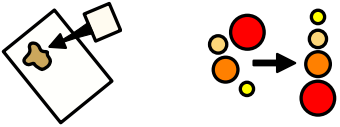
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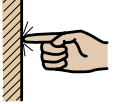
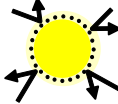
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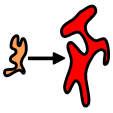
9

10



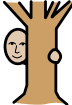
 Read the sentences	 Cut them out	 Stick them in the right order
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Their skin hardens and protects the ladybirds inside.

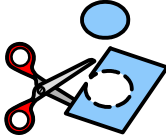
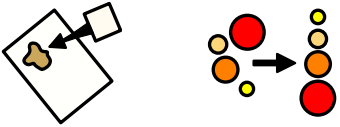
  
Weather becomes warmer.

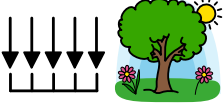
    
The birds don't like the ladybird's smelly feet.

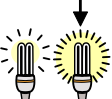
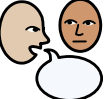
   
They are hungry and look for food.

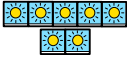
   
Ladybirds crawl out from their winter hiding place.

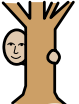


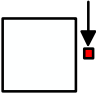
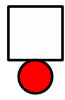
 Read the sentences	 Cut them out	 Stick them in the right order
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The ladybirds eat pests all summer long.

     
Their bright red colour tells the birds, don't eat me!

  
A week later, the eggs hatch.

    
They huddle together hidden during winter.

     
They lay tiny yellow eggs on the underside of leaves.



Enemies of the Ladybird



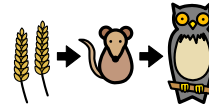
to be able to sort the predators from the prey of ladybirds.



Predators of Ladybirds



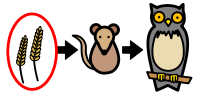
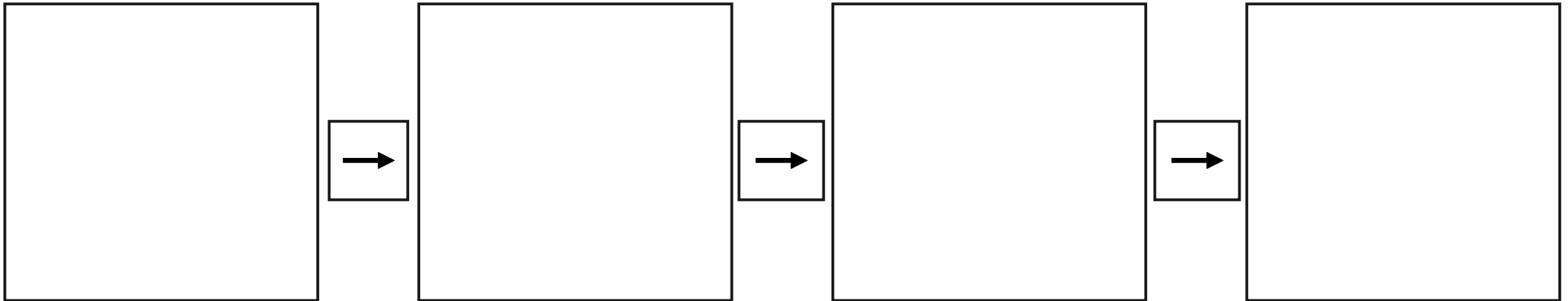
Prey of Ladybirds



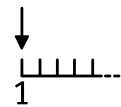
The Ladybird Food Chain



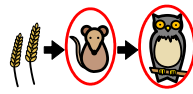
to be able to create the ladybird food chain.



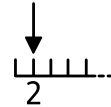
Producer



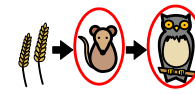
1st



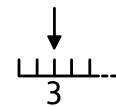
Consumer



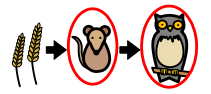
2nd



Consumer



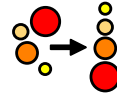
3rd



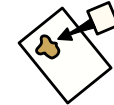
Consumer



1. Cut out

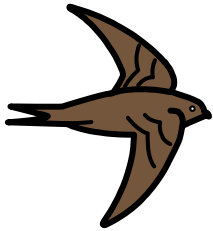


2. Sort

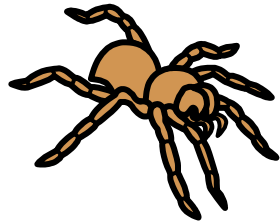


3. Stick

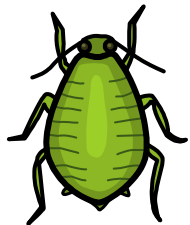
predator and prey worksheet



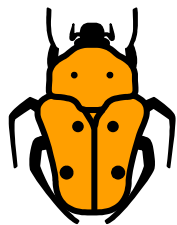
swift



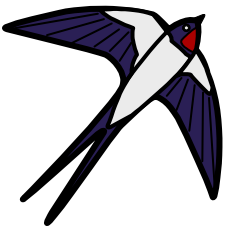
spider



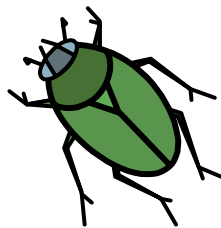
aphid



beetle

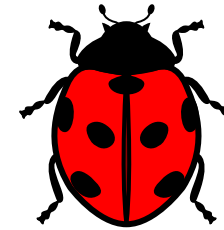


swallow

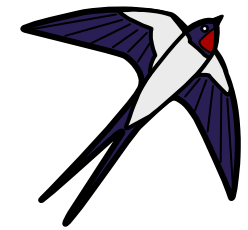


true bugs

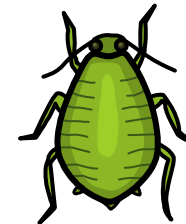
food chain worksheet



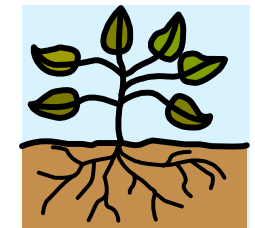
ladybird



swallow



aphid



plant