

**Grade Level:** Kindergarten

**Topic:** The Living Environment

**Title:** *Observation in our own backyard!*

## **Standards**

**K.1.1** Raise questions about the natural world.

**K.4.2** Observe plants and animals, describing how they are alike and how they are different in the way they look and in the things they do.

**K.2.2** Draw pictures and write words to describe objects and experiences.

## **Goals and Objectives**

- Students will conduct observations and record their data by using pictures and words in a journal.

## **Materials**

Chart paper

Plastic containers

Book: Upclose by Brenda Parks, Newbridge Discovery

Classroom magnifying glasses

Caterpillars

Sticks

Milkweeds

Science Notebooks

Crayons

## **Prior Knowledge:**

In the classroom we will have set up an earthworm box from the Elkhart Environmental Center and plastic container with caterpillars. The students will have available to them paper, crayons, magnifying glasses in that area.

## **Activities**

**Introduction:** Teacher and students will create a KWL chart on caterpillar characteristics.

## **Procedures:**

1. Take the students on a picture walk of Upclose by Brenda Parks.
2. Read aloud the story Upclose by Brenda Parks.
3. Whole group discussion from book and inquire about other experiences that they have seen this take place. Connecting to real life experiences.

4. Give each child their own magnifying glass to use for free exploration. This could look different in everyone's classroom. (Ex. Center activity, whole group,)
5. Then place the caterpillar at their tables and have them observe the caterpillar and have discussions with their partner.
6. Have the students draw what the caterpillar looks like in their science journal.
7. Pull class into whole group and list character traits of a caterpillar on chart paper.

**Conclusion:** After the discussion of characteristics of the caterpillar. Have students sharing what character traits they did not observe or draw. Then they will return to their science notebook and fill in missing details.

## **Assessment**

The assessment will be their drawings in their science journals.