

SKILL SHARPENERS

Critical Thinking



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Editorial Development: Guadalupe Lopez
Lisa Vitaris Mathews
Copy Editing: Laurie Westrich
Art Direction: Yuki Meyer
Design/Production: Yuki Meyer
Paula Acojido



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Contents

How to Use This Book 4

Insects

Butterflies and Grasshoppers 7

- Read All About It** Butterflies and Grasshoppers 8
- Tell What You Know** Butterfly Life Cycle 9
- Tell What You Know** Butterfly or Grasshopper? 10
- Match** Color Match 11
- Solve** Grasshopper Puzzle 12
- Identify** So Many Butterflies! 15
- Apply** Colorful Butterfly 16
- Analyze** Butterfly Twins 17
- Solve** Hungry Caterpillar 18
- Analyze** Match-up 19
- Show** In the Garden 20
- Apply** Pretty Patterns 21
- Compare** Which Has More? 22
- Create** Nibble, Nibble, Caterpillar 23

Honeybees and Ladybugs 25

- Read All About It** Honeybees and Ladybugs 26
- Tell What You Know** Helpful Insects 27
- Tell What You Know** I Can Draw 28
- Analyze** Look Carefully 29
- Solve** Fly Away Home 30
- Distinguish** Lovely Ladybugs 31
- Determine** What Is It? 32
- Count** Ten Little Honeybees 33
- Analyze** Match-up 34
- Find** Find the Flowers 35
- Draw** Missing Parts 36
- Create** A Worker Bee 37

Weather

Different Types of Weather 41

- Read All About It** What Will the Weather Be Today? 42
- Tell What You Know** Playing Outside 43
- Tell What You Know** Your Favorite Weather 44
- Analyze** Snowflakes 45
- Solve** Rainy Puzzle 46
- Show** Counting Raindrops 49
- Apply** Sunny Days 50
- Analyze** Find the Twin 51
- Solve** Down a Snowy Hill 52
- Show** Rain, Rain, Go Away 53
- Solve** Puddle Fun 54
- Identify** Counting Weather Symbols 55
- Compare** Which Has More? 56
- Create** Weather Wheel 57

We Dress for the Weather 59

- Read All About It** What Should I Wear? 60
- Tell What You Know** Choose the Clothing Item 61
- Tell What You Know** Today's Weather 62
- Match** Dressing for the Weather 63
- Solve** Summer Day 64
- Analyze** Match-up 67
- Apply** Mitten Pairs 68
- Match** Match the Mittens 69
- Show** Hats! 70
- Justify** Odd One Out 71
- Apply** Read and Color 72
- Create** Summer and Winter Puppets 73

Transportation

Cars, Trucks, and Buses	75
Read All About It Cars, Trucks, and Buses	76
Tell What You Know What Does It Carry?	77
Tell What You Know Your Favorite Way to Travel	78
Match Many Cars	79
Solve Truck Puzzle	80
Analyze Match-up	83
Draw Wheels Go 'Round	84
Justify Odd One Out	85
Show Go, Go, Go!	86
Find Out On the Road	87
Draw I Scream, You Scream!	88
Solve Patterns	89
Solve Car, Truck, or Bus?	90
Create Cars on the Road	91
Planes, Trains, and Boats	95
Read All About It More Ways to Travel	96
Tell What You Know Many Vehicles	97
Show The Best Way	98
Analyze Sailing, Sailing	99
Solve Boat Puzzle	100
Analyze Train Match-up	103
Draw All Aboard!	104
Apply Zoom, Zoom	105
Solve Helicopter Tricks	106
Apply Boats in a Row	107
Draw Trace and Complete	108
Create My Train	109

Community

Homes in My Community	111
Read All About It Many Types of Homes	112
Tell What You Know Homes	113
Identify A House Built of	114
Construct Is Anyone Home?	115
Draw The House	116
Show Find the House	117
Solve To Grandma's House	118
Apply The Apartments	119
Analyze Which Boy Lives Where?	120
Create House Shapes	121
Places to Visit	123
Read All About It Places to Visit	124
Tell What You Know Let's Go!	125
Draw Playtime!	126
Classify A Busy Town	127
Show Community Places	128
Analyze The Playground	129
Show School Things	130
Solve Patterns from a Restaurant	131
Solve Eating Out	132
Find Numbers in the Park	133
Analyze Looking Down	134
Create Paper Bag Buildings	135
Answer Key	137

How to Use This Book

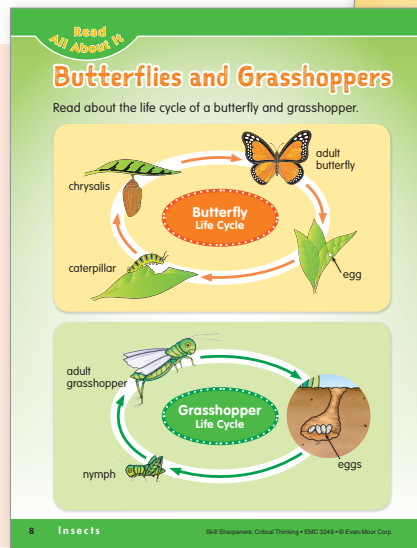
Practicing Critical Thinking Skills

Critical thinking comes naturally to young children. They learn autonomy through exploration, observe their environment using logic and reasoning, try new things, and think creatively. As children grow and enter an academic setting, some of their natural curiosity and problem-solving instincts are not engaged as often as they could be. This practice book encourages children to “think about their thinking” through creative, analytical, and evaluative tasks.

Read All About It

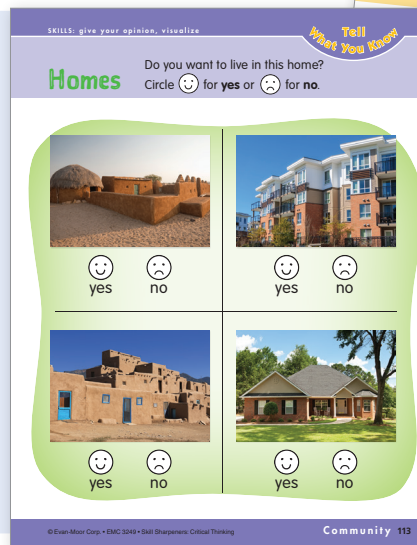
Read the selection to your child.

Discuss how the illustrations help your child better understand the topic. Then, if your child is able, have him or her read the selection to you. After reading the selection, discuss how the topic relates to your child’s life.



Tell What You Know

The activities on these pages provide opportunities for children to connect their knowledge and opinions to the topic. Encourage your child to think about his or her experiences and support his or her curiosity by discussing the questions and topics together.



Critical Thinking Activities

The critical thinking activities are designed to engage children in application, analytical, and evaluative tasks. The cross-curricular activities present science, math, social studies, and language arts content.

Solve SKILLS: predict, distinguish, color

Car, Truck, or Bus?

Guess what the picture shows. Then color.

1 YELLOW 2 BLUE 3 BLACK
4 BROWN 5 GREEN 6 RED

What do you see? Circle it.

car truck bus

90 Transportation Skill Sharpeners: Critical Thinking • EMC 3249 • © Evan-Moor Corp.

Analyze SKILLS: differentiate, compare, match

Match-up

Look at the first picture. Circle the picture that matches.

1

2

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Art Projects and Hands-on Activities

The art projects and hands-on activities provide children with opportunities to use critical thinking skills to create. Encourage your child to tap into his or her creativity and innovation and to have fun with the hands-on activities. After your child completes each project, discuss the steps taken to create it. Encourage your child to explain what he or she enjoyed most and why.

Create SKILLS: follow directions, construct

Weather Wheel

1 Cut out the circle. Glue it onto a paper plate.
2 Cut out the arrow. Glue it onto a clothespin.
3 Hang the Weather Wheel by a window.
4 Move the arrow to show the weather each day.

Today's Weather

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Create SKILLS: design, think creatively

A Worker Bee

Materials
• scissors
• glue
• tape
• pencil

Here's How
1. Cut out the pieces on pages 37 and 39.
2. Fold the body in half. Cut along the half-circles at the top. Tape the body closed on the top and the bottom black stripe.
3. Cut out the wings and antennae.
4. Glue the wings and antennae to the body.
5. Glue the face to the body.

Insects 37



Butterflies and Grasshoppers

☒ **I Did It!** Check each activity as you complete it.

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ Read All About It
Butterflies and Grasshoppers 8 | ☐ Analyze
Butterfly Twins 17 |
| ☐ Tell What You Know
Butterfly Life Cycle 9 | ☐ Solve
Hungry Caterpillar 18 |
| ☐ Tell What You Know
Butterfly or Grasshopper? 10 | ☐ Analyze
Match-up 19 |
| ☐ Match
Color Match 11 | ☐ Show
In the Garden 20 |
| ☐ Solve
Grasshopper Puzzle 12–13 | ☐ Apply
Pretty Patterns 21 |
| ☐ Identify
So Many Butterflies! 15 | ☐ Compare
Which Has More? 22 |
| ☐ Apply
Colorful Butterfly 16 | ☐ Create
Nibble, Nibble, Caterpillar ... 23 |

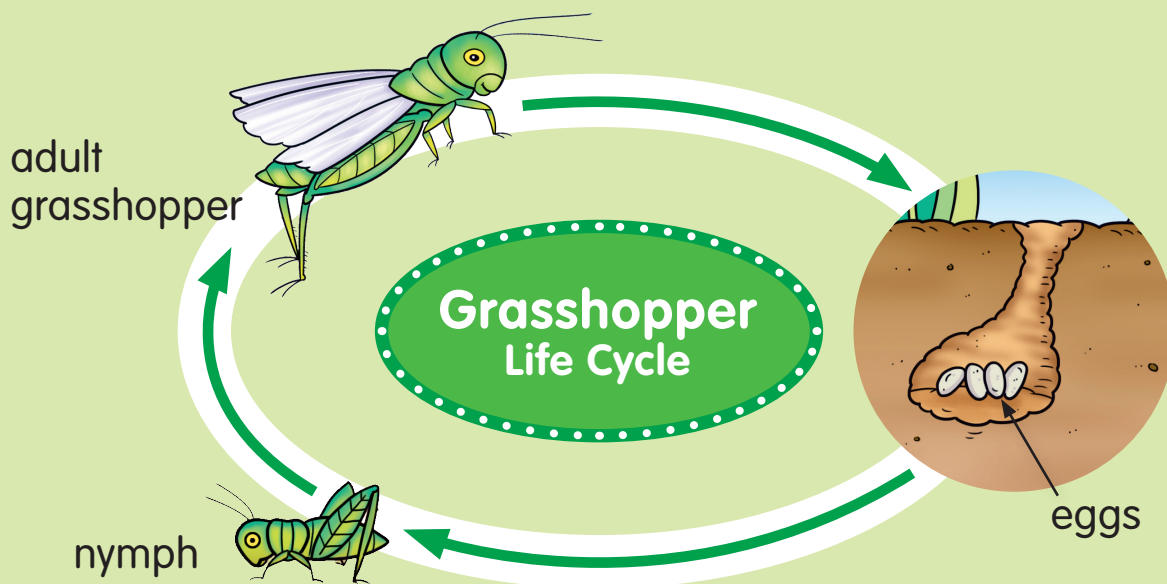
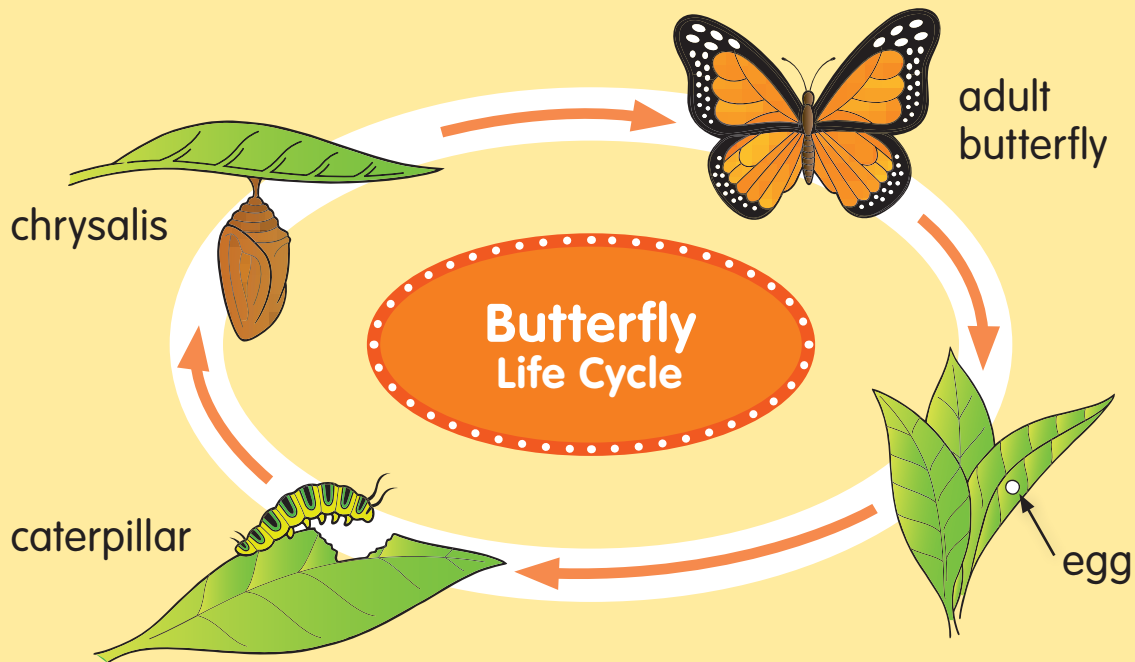


Be on the Lookout!

How many different butterflies are shown on pages 11–19?
Count them and write the number here: _____

Butterflies and Grasshoppers

Read about the life cycle of a butterfly and grasshopper.

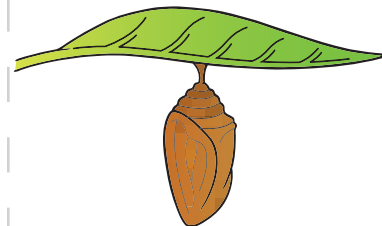
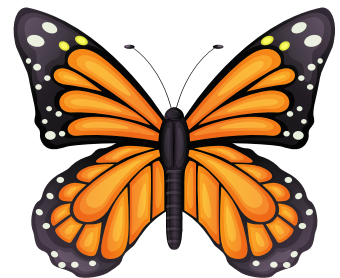
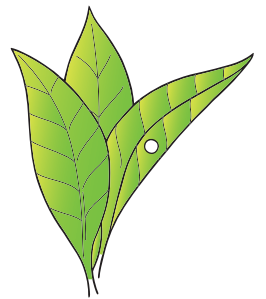


Butterfly Life Cycle

Cut.
Put the pictures in order.

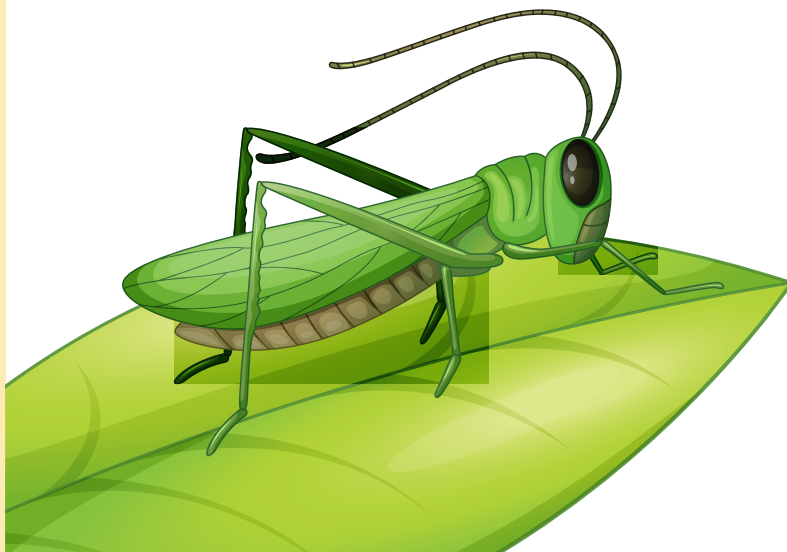
1	2
3	4

I see a little egg on a leaf.
A caterpillar hatches out.
One day, the caterpillar makes
a chrysalis.
A butterfly comes out.
Soon, the butterfly flies away.



Butterfly or Grasshopper?

Circle the insect that you like better.
Tell someone why you like it.



Color Match

Draw a line to match.

orange

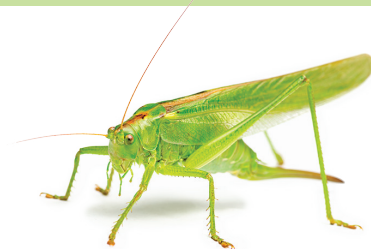
purple

yellow

red

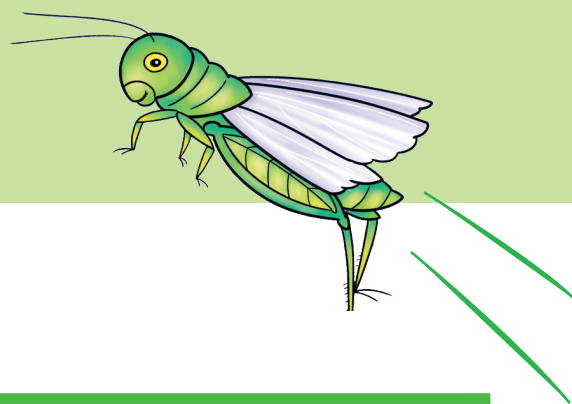
green

brown



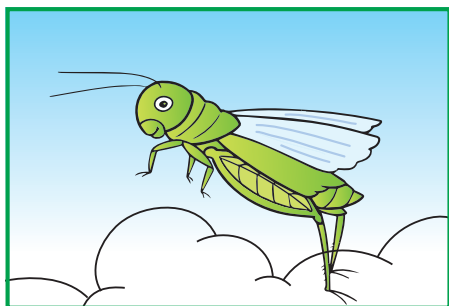
Solve

Grasshopper Puzzle



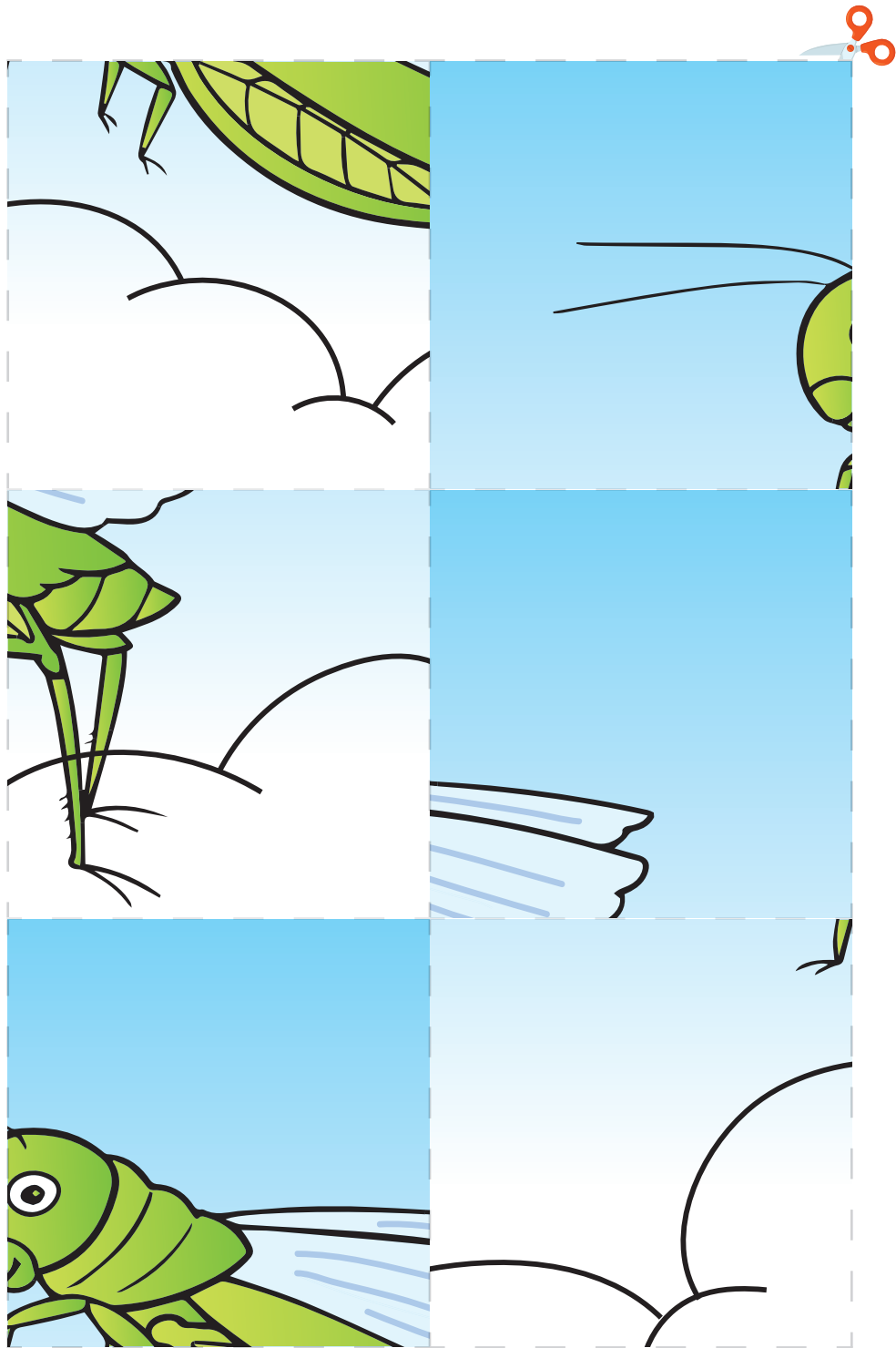
Cut out the puzzle on page 13.
Glue the pieces inside the frame.

glue	glue	glue
glue	glue	glue



Trace the letters.

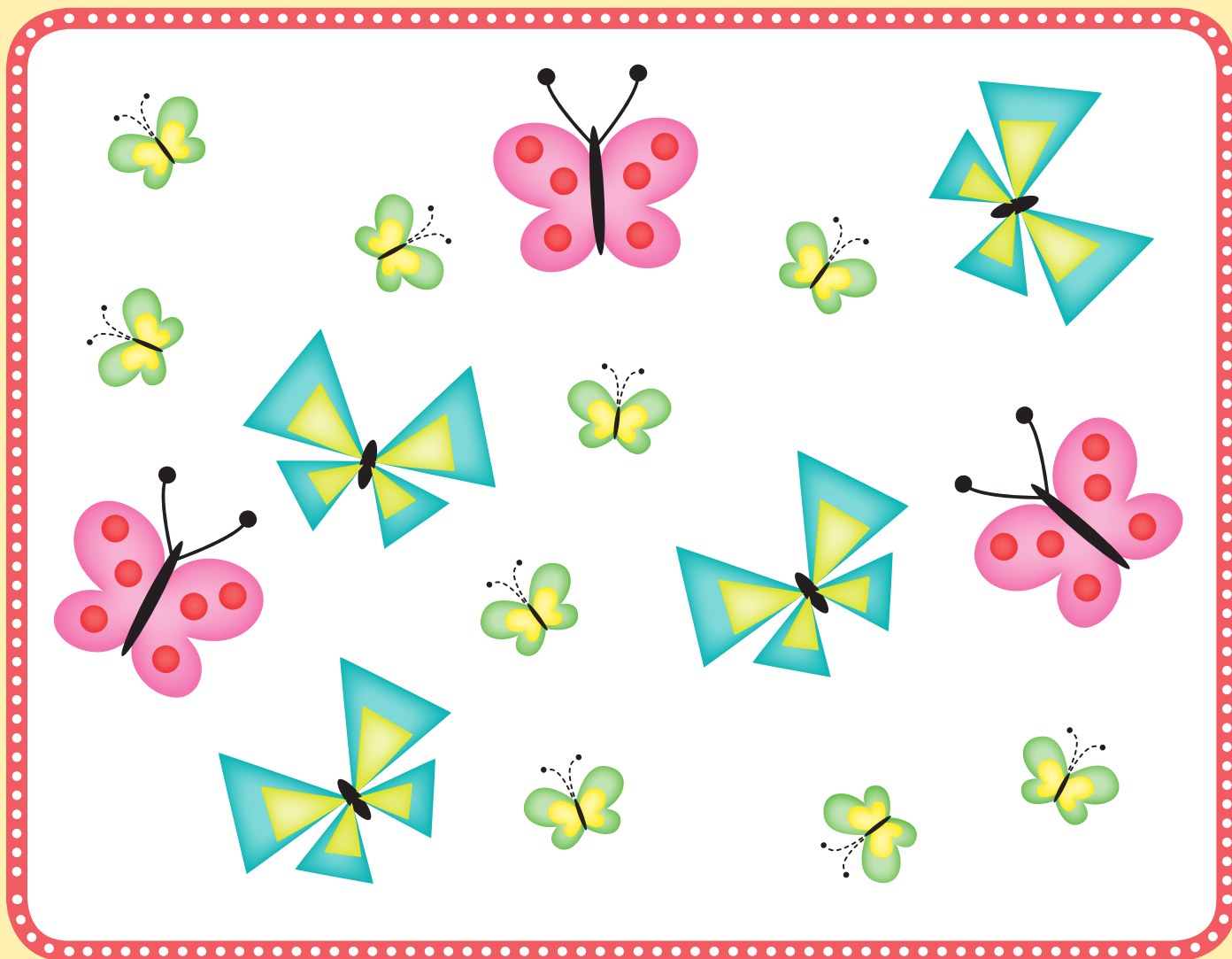
grasshopper





So Many Butterflies!

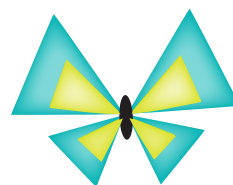
Count.



How many do you see?



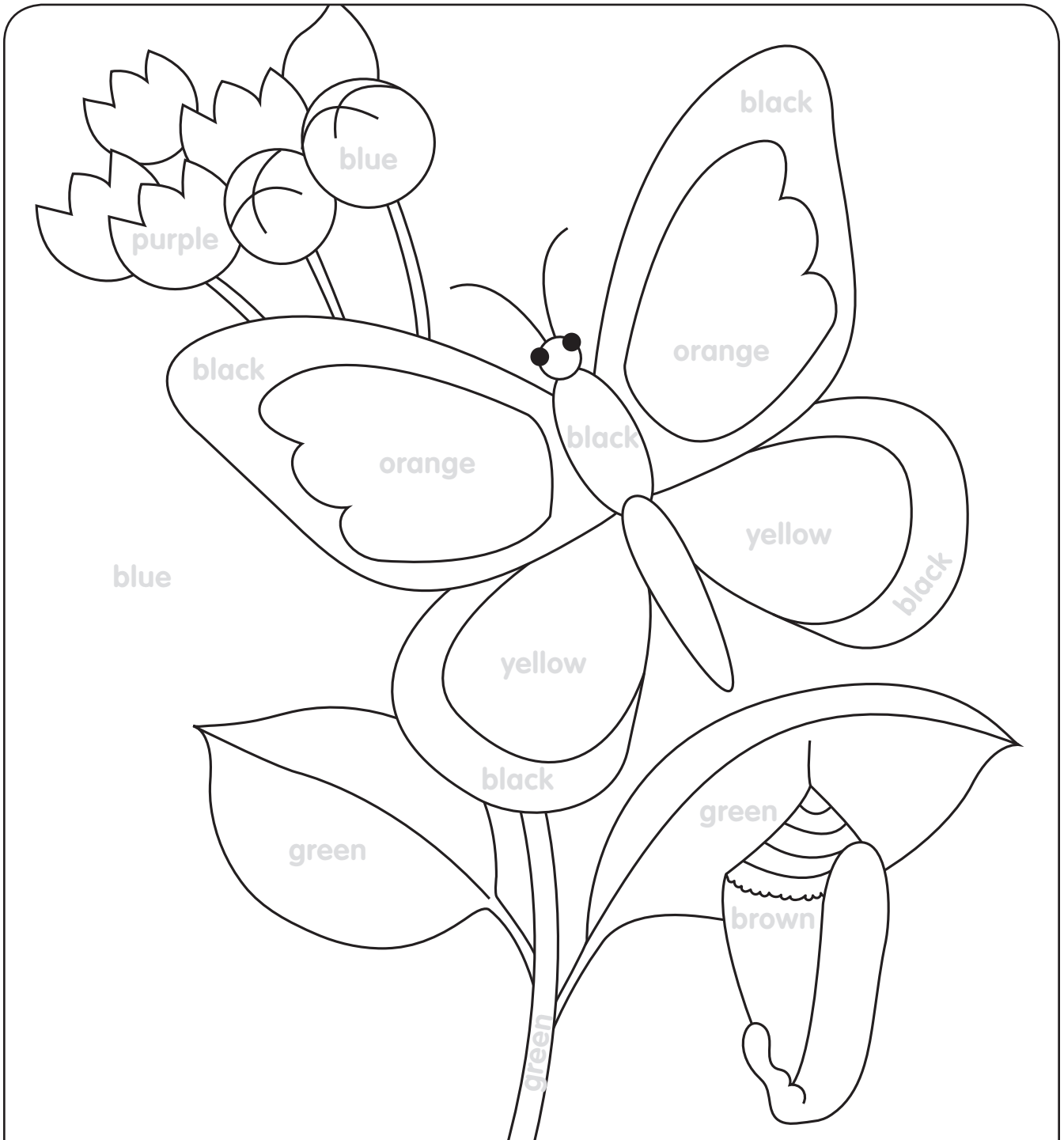




Apply

Colorful Butterfly

Color.



Butterfly Twins

Draw a line to match.

