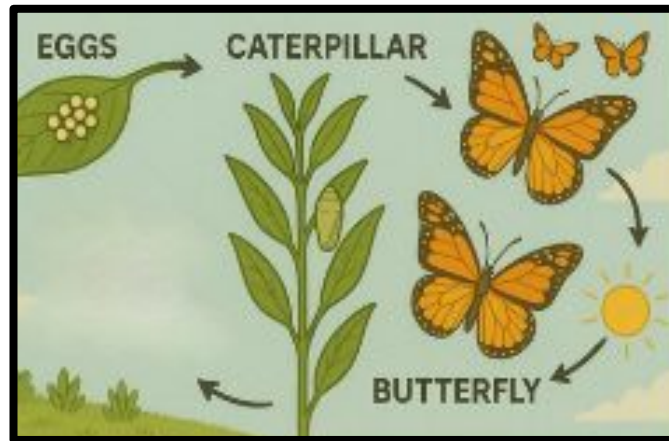


Decodable Texts: Long Vowel Teams: ie (tie)

"This story focuses on the 'ie' sound as in 'die.' Watch for words like 'die,' 'lie,' and 'untie' as you read!"



Why Butterflies Die in Winter

Many butterflies live only a short time. Some die when the weather gets too cold in winter.

Before they die, butterflies lay tiny eggs. These eggs stay safe through the cold months. When spring comes, new butterflies hatch and fill the sky again.

Some butterflies fly south to warmer places instead of staying where it's cold. This helps them live longer and lay more eggs.

Even though butterflies don't live very long, they bring beauty and joy each year!

After reading the story, have your child point to and slowly sound out each practice word.

tie

untie

die

tie

pie



Name: _____

Why Butterflies Die in Winter

1. What do butterflies do before winter comes?

- A. They lay tiny eggs
- B. They build nests
- C. They gather food
- D. They hide under leaves

2. What happens when spring comes?

- A. The butterflies sleep longer
- B. New butterflies hatch from eggs
- C. The butterflies fly to colder places
- D. The butterflies build new homes

3. Fill in the blank:

Before they die, butterflies lay tiny _____.

4. Why do you think some butterflies fly south for winter?

5. What do you like most about seeing butterflies in spring?



Coaching Guide

Target Skill: Long Vowel Team 'ie' (as in "die")

Genre: Nonfiction – Life Science

High-Frequency Words: the, they, to, and, when

Before Reading

1. Remind them of the target skill: "We're looking for 'ie' words that say the long /i/ sound, like in 'die.'"
 2. Have you ever seen butterflies flying in the spring or summer?
 3. Why do you think animals have different ways of staying safe in winter?
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During Reading

1. **Sounding Out Support:** Remind kids to try the long /i/ sound when they see 'ie.'
 2. Watch for 'ie' words and practice stretching them out clearly.
 3. What happens after butterflies lay their eggs?
 4. Try reading the last part like you're excited about seeing butterflies in spring!
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After Reading

1. Can you retell what happens to butterflies before and after winter?
 2. Why do you think butterflies only live for a short time?
 3. Would you rather stay for winter or fly south like the butterflies? Why?
 4. Skill mastery prompt: "Find and underline 5 'ie' words in the story!"
 5. **Fluency Tip:** Try reading the story again like you're teaching someone about the life of a butterfly!
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Activity Idea

Draw the life cycle of a butterfly, showing the egg, caterpillar, and butterfly stages. Label the drawing and use at least three 'ie' words in a short description of how butterflies survive through the seasons.

Coaching Tip

Celebrate curiosity—asking questions about the world helps young readers stay excited about nonfiction texts!

