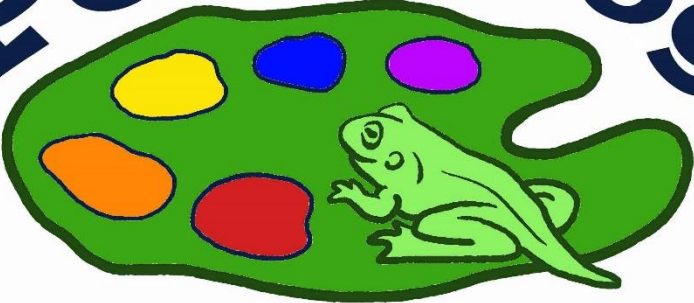


Pollywog



Art and Storytime

Welcome to **Pollywog At Home**, Session 7! The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle

Parts to **(read aloud)** to kids are labeled before the text.
Parts that are **((asides to caregivers))** are indicated with double parenthesis.

(read aloud)

Hello again, Pollywog Friends! I hope you are doing well. The weather is warming up, and I have been spending a lot of time on my deck outside. My deck is a big wooden porch that is high off of the ground, and since I live in the woods, I feel like I am in a tree house when I'm on my deck. I wrote and created today's activity there!

Welcome Song –

Let's sing The Welcome Song together:

~ sung to the tune of Rock-A-Bye Baby ~
Welcome to Art Class!
Ready for some fun?
First we sit still,
and quietly listen.
After our screen time,
we'll make something new -
but first we sing this
so we know what to do!

Opening (read aloud)

Last week we focused a bit on worms. Let's take a step in another direction and look at caterpillars! We are reading The Hungry Caterpillar this week. Of all the books we look at, I think this one is the one you have the best chance of having a copy of at home. If you have a copy of this book, try following along with the video with your own book. It feels nice to turn the pages and see the holes the hungry caterpillar is eating into everything.

Storytime is not just about reading new stories! Old favorites can be read over and over, as you probably know already. ((Pause to find your copy of the book, if you have one. It may be fun to assemble other Eric Carle books to read later.))

Storytime (read aloud)

Here we go! This lady is a nice reader of the book **The Very Hungry Caterpillar** by Eric Carle.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=btFCtMhF3il>

((copy and paste into browser if clicking does not work))

After Story (read aloud)

Eric Carle changed the way people felt about children's books with *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. It became the perfect board book back where there weren't many board books - because of the shapes of the pages and the shapes cut into the pages. Those little holes are called "die cuts", which might sound a little scary - but "die" is a word that means a specially-shaped cutter for making the same cut again and again. A cookie cutter is a kind of die cutter.

Our Project (read aloud)

There have been hundreds of ways to make projects to celebrate *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* - let's try one I've never done before. Hopefully it will be new to you, too. This project is based around making paper chains. If you have made paper chains before, you probably know how fun they can be. If you have not made them before, you can experiment with new ways to make them after we make our special one today! I like how today's project has some similarities with last week's - repetition is a great way to remember how to do things.

Materials –

- Sheet of green, red, black and yellow construction paper (if you do not have construction paper, you can take a little time to color a white sheet of paper with crayons markers or paint). We will not be using a lot of the black, red, or yellow - so if you want to color white paper and use smaller pieces that way, that can work well.
- Scissors (safety scissors for kids; any type of scissors for adult helpers).
- Tape, glue or a stapler (or a combination - see what your grown-up helper finds easiest to use).
- Crayons, markers, or chalk (I am going to use crayons in my sample, because I think that is the art supply that will be most readily available to families at home. If you have other materials, this is a good time to experiment!).

((We will be using materials during Pollywog At Home that families are likely to already have on hand. If I list an item you do not have, see if you can think of a substitute - - if you're really stuck for a solution, feel free to email me for advice! r.schiding.studio@comcast.net)

How To –

1) Color all over your Green sheet of Construction Paper with Yellow, Blue, Green and White crayons. We're aiming to just scribble it all up! Try to do a good job of coloring in all the areas of the paper. Then, turn the paper over and do the other side too.

By doing this step, we are imitating the way Eric Carle uses very colorful shapes in his artwork - it will make our caterpillar look much better than if it was just plain green.

Here is how my paper looks after this step:



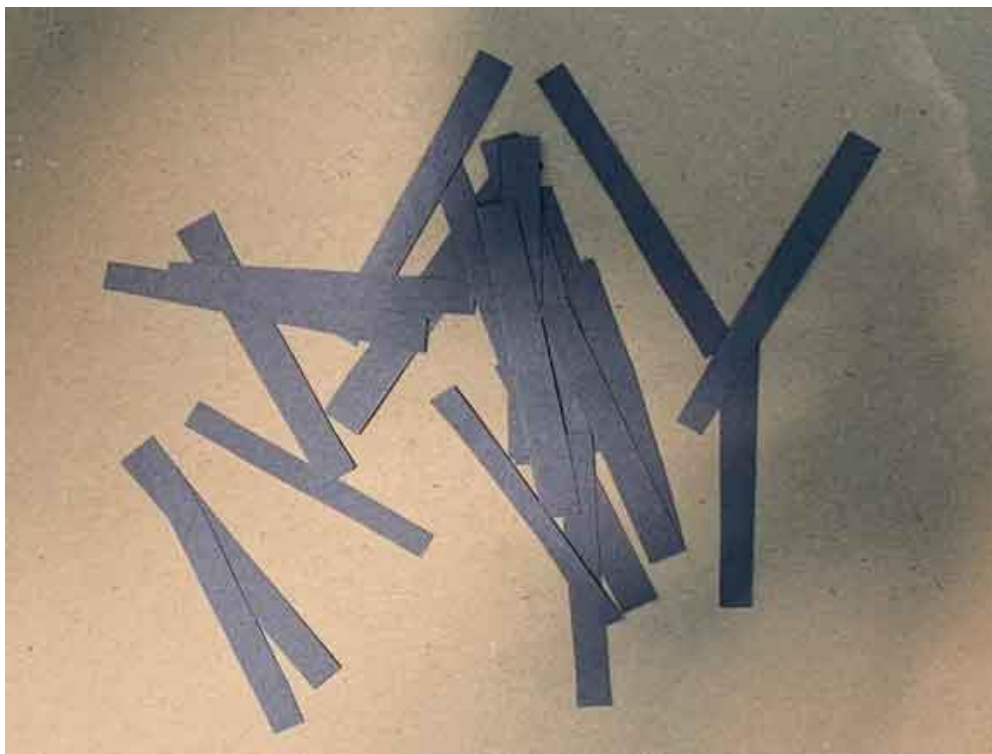
2) Cut your sheet into strips - try to make 6 strips that are about 2 inches wide. This will take some adult help. Grown-up helpers can measure the paper or just "eyeball" the size of the strips and draw a line for a young artist to cut along. Or maybe the cutting will be up to the adult, because young artists are not quite ready for that step yet. Since these are just simple lines, and they do not have to be perfectly straight or flawless, it can be good practice for little hands. NOTE: Save one small strip of green to set aside for a later step. It would be good for that strip to be about 1/4" wide. Here's how my strips look drawn, then cut out.



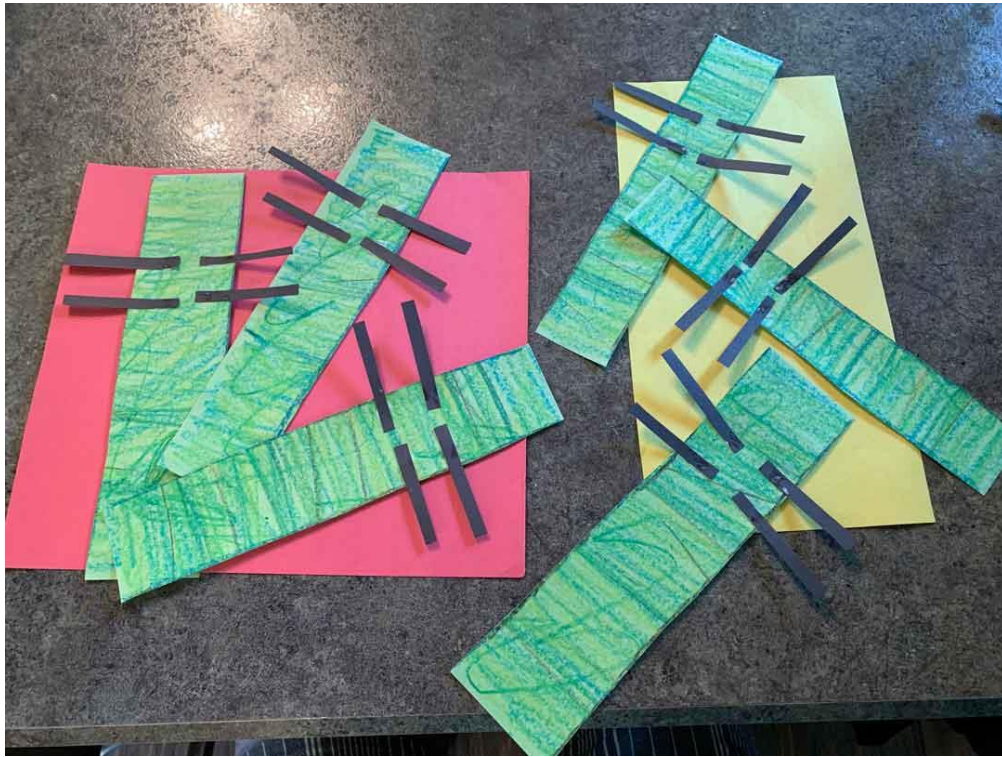
3) Now we want to make one red strip that matches the size and shape of the green ones. You can color that strip with red, yellow and orange crayons - again, on both sides.



4) Now cut some small black rectangles - about $\frac{1}{4}$ " x 2". If they are a little bigger or smaller – that is okay! It will be good to have about 4 black pieces for each of the green strips. So if you have 6 green strips, that means 24 small black pieces.



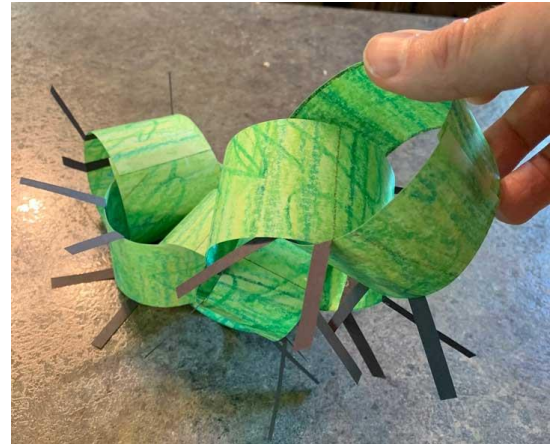
5) Glue or tape the black pieces to the green strips - as shown here. Gluing will require that you wait for the glue to dry, but can be nice because you don't see the tape that way. Taping is quicker and easier.



6) Now we are going to make eyes for the caterpillar. Use a small red oval, glued into a larger yellow oval of paper. This is trickier cutting, and probably best done by the grown-up helper. They are going to fit on our red strip - so notice the size and shape in the picture below. Glue them together, and onto the red strip.



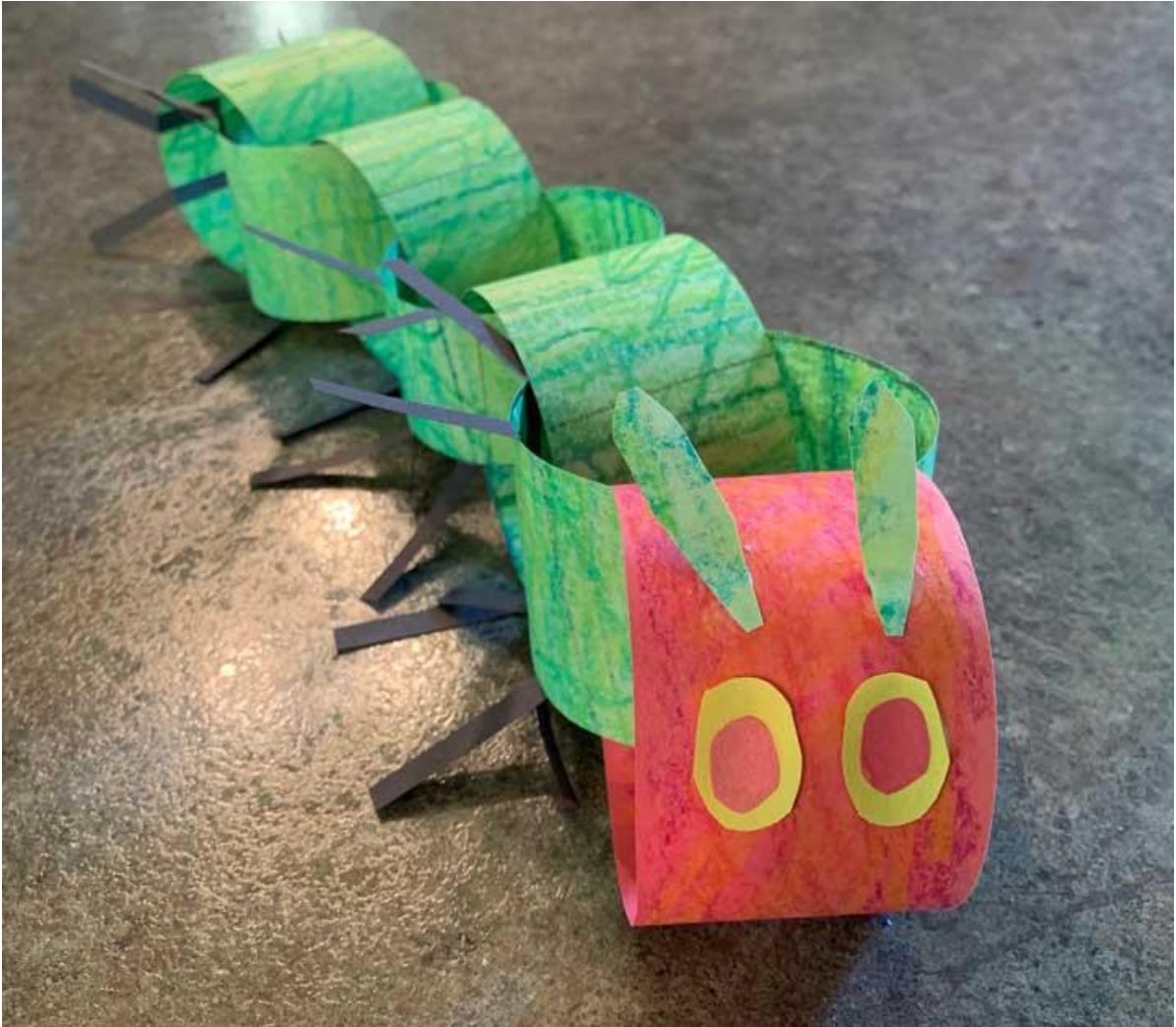
7) This is the part that makes our project into a paper chain. Loop the green chain links into one another and staple (or tape) as you go. Make your links with the legs glued to the inside - and you want the legs to be in leggy spots - but if they are all over the place, that is okay. Caterpillar legs sometimes seem to be all over the place! Here are a couple photos of that process. You can fold the legs to stick out more like legs (as seen in the last photo below).



8) Now add the head piece to the front, with the eyes facing forward. Prepare a pair of antennae from the leftover sliver of green paper.



7) Lastly, it would be nice to finish our caterpillar off with a pair of antennae. They can be made in just about the same way as the legs - a little smaller - and green is a good color for them. Then glue them into place above the eyes. You will have to be careful not to touch the caterpillar while it dries. Here is how it looks, all done:



And – that is all for today’s Pollywog!

As we do Pollywog At Home, you are encouraged to send photos of your Pollywog projects to me at my email address: r.schiding.studio@comcast.net. I will share the work on the Library’s website at the end of our Pollywog lessons. (I do not show children’s faces in photos of their work that I share.)

You and I are lucky to be able to have art and storytime together. Thanks to **Wernersville Public Library!** Libraries are the best! They give us the chance to have wonderful things, without needing to spend extra money! Remember to thank them when you get the chance.

((You can receive credit for attending and working through this Pollywog At Home! Please follow this link to a form that will go to the Wernersville Public Library for an attendance prize: <https://forms.gle/T7ZtnRS9VcSExBZh7> – – copy and paste into browser if clicking does not work))

The certificates of accomplishment are now available, and are awarded upon completion of five Pollywog At Home sessions in a row!