Name: _____ Date: _____

Caddisfly Larvae Build Houses to Carry

Circle group

Look into a clear, cool stream. You may see a small pile of sand or tiny twigs moving along the bottom. Inside is a caddisfly larva. The pile is its house.

A caddisfly starts as an egg in the water. The larva that hatches is soft and has no armor. A fish could eat it in one bite. So the larva makes a case. It makes silk from its own body and uses it as glue. It sticks together grains of sand, small stones, leaves or twigs. The case is a tube with an opening at each end. The larva lives inside.

The larva carries its case everywhere. Only its head and legs poke out. If a fish comes close, the larva slips back in. The stones can be heavy, but they help the larva stay on the bottom when the water flows fast.

As the larva grows, it adds new pieces to the front of its case. When it is full grown, it seals itself in and changes. Later it flies away as an adult that looks a little like a moth.

Questions

1. Where does a caddisfly larva live?

_____

_____

2. What does the larva use as glue?

_____

_____

3. What might a larva use to build a case?

_____

_____

4. Why does a caddisfly larva need a case?

_____

_____

5. How does the larva make its case bigger?

_____

_____

6. How can heavy stones be useful?

_____

_____

Words to know

larva: a young insect that looks different from its adult form
armor: a hard covering that protects the body
silk: a thin, strong thread made by some insects
stream: a small river that flows along
tube: a long hollow shape like a pipe

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Caddisfly Larvae Build Houses to Carry

Triangle group

Look into a clear, cool stream and you may see a small pile of sand grains or tiny twigs moving along the bottom. Inside is a caddisfly larva, and the pile is its house.

A caddisfly starts life as an egg in the water. The larva that hatches is soft and has no armor. A hungry fish could eat it with one bite. So the larva makes a case. It makes silk from its own body and uses it as glue. Then it sticks together grains of sand, small stones, bits of leaves or twigs, depending on its kind. The case is a tube with an opening at each end, and the larva lives inside.

The larva carries its case everywhere. Only its head and legs poke out when it crawls and feeds. When a fish comes close, the larva can slip back inside. The stones can be heavy, but they also help the larva stay on the bottom, even when the water flows fast.

As the larva grows, it adds new pieces to the front of its case. When it is full grown, it seals itself in and changes. Later it climbs out and flies away as an adult that looks a little like a moth.

The caddisfly larva shows that a home can be a tool for staying safe.

Questions

1. Where does a caddisfly larva live?

_____

_____

2. What does the larva use as glue to build its case?

_____

_____

3. What materials might a larva use to build a case?

_____

_____

4. Why does a caddisfly larva need a case?

_____

_____

5. How does the larva make its case bigger as it grows?

_____

_____

6. How can heavy stones in the case be useful?

_____

_____

Words to know

larva: a young insect that looks different from its adult form
armor: a hard covering that protects the body
silk: a thin, strong thread made by some insects
stream: a small river that flows along
tube: a long hollow shape like a pipe

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Caddisfly Larvae Build Houses to Carry

Square group

Peer into a clear, cool stream and you may notice a small heap of sand grains or tiny twigs creeping along the bottom. Inside it is a caddisfly larva, and the heap is its house.

A caddisfly begins life as an egg laid in the water. The larva that hatches is soft and entirely without armor, so a hungry fish could swallow it in a single bite. To protect itself, the larva constructs a case. It produces silk from its own body and uses it as glue, cementing together grains of sand, small stones, bits of leaves or twigs, depending on its kind. The finished case is a tube with an opening at each end, and the larva lives inside it.

The larva drags its case wherever it goes. Only its head and legs poke out while it crawls and feeds. Whenever a fish approaches, the larva can slip back inside. The stones may be heavy, but they also help the larva stay anchored to the bottom, even when the water rushes by quickly.

As the larva grows, it adds new pieces to the front of its case. When it is fully grown, it seals itself in and undergoes a great change. Eventually it climbs out and flies away as an adult that looks somewhat like a moth.

The caddisfly larva demonstrates that a home can also serve as a tool for staying safe.

Questions

1. Where does a caddisfly larva live?

_____

_____

2. What does the larva use as glue to build its case?

_____

_____

3. What materials might a larva use to build a case, depending on its kind?

_____

_____

4. Why does a caddisfly larva need a case?

_____

_____

5. How does the larva enlarge its case as it grows?

_____

_____

6. How can heavy stones in the case be useful?

_____

_____

Words to know

larva: a young insect that looks different from its adult form
armor: a hard covering that protects the body
silk: a thin, strong thread made by some insects
stream: a small river that flows along
tube: a long hollow shape like a pipe

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: Caddisfly Larvae Build Houses to Carry

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: Caddisfly Larvae Build Houses to Carry

Easier · 183 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.9

1. In a clear, cool stream, on the bottom.
2. Silk that it makes from its own body.
3. Sand, small stones, leaves or twigs.
4. It is soft with no armor, so a fish could eat it.
5. It adds new pieces to the front.
6. They help the larva stay on the bottom when the water flows fast.

Triangle: Caddisfly Larvae Build Houses to Carry

This passage · 221 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.2

1. In a clear, cool stream, on the bottom of the water.
2. Silk that it makes from its own body.
3. Grains of sand, small stones, bits of leaves or twigs.
4. It is soft with no armor, so a hungry fish could easily eat it.
5. It adds new pieces to the front of the case.
6. They help the larva stay on the bottom when the water flows fast.

Square: Caddisfly Larvae Build Houses to Carry

Harder · 234 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6.5

1. In a clear, cool stream, on the bottom of the water.
2. Silk that it produces from its own body.
3. Grains of sand, small stones, bits of leaves or twigs.
4. It is soft and without armor, so a hungry fish could easily swallow it.
5. It adds new pieces to the front of the case.
6. They help anchor the larva to the bottom when the water rushes by.