

Family Guide





Eric Carle's Picture Books

Celebrating **50** Years of
“The Very Hungry Caterpillar”

Eric Carle is beloved around the world as the illustrator and author of picture books designed to delight young children and the adults who read to them. This year his most popular storybook hero—The Very Hungry Caterpillar—turns fifty and Carle himself turns ninety. The Frist Art Museum is celebrating with this joyful exhibition about Carle's art and life. This guide offers fun activities for families to do together in our galleries and at home.

In this exhibition, we invite adults and children to read aloud together. There are cozy nooks in which to enjoy Carle's books, including world-language and Braille editions. We also encourage you to visit Martin ArtQuest® (on the same floor as the exhibition) to engage in art-making activities inspired by the magical world of Eric Carle's picture books.



Eric Carle was born in Syracuse, New York, in 1929 and moved to Stuttgart, Germany, when he was six. At school, many of his teachers encouraged his love of art. He remembers that, even as a young child, he was attracted to large sheets of paper, big brushes, and colorful paints—the same tools and materials he uses to make his picture book collages. Many of his stories are inspired by simple everyday experiences with his family and friends, such as making pancakes or playing together. Carle’s books also reflect his fascination with nature and animals, from majestic peacocks and polar bears to humble beetles, caterpillars, and fireflies. His characters go through big changes or on long journeys, just like we all do as we grow up!

F

amily Activity for the First Gallery

As you walk through this gallery, you will see colorful works from an artist so free.

He writes about subjects big and small,
pages from his books on these walls.

In this room are things from near and far—
everyday items and the bizarre!

**Look around at every work.
Can you find all of the items below?**

the moon (and Papa's very long climb)

a boy and a girl who are friends
(What do they tell each other?)

people in a car
(Are they in a hurry?)

Walter the Baker (and his special twisted roll!)

a boy helping his uncle work
(What do they wear?)



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amily Activities for the Second Gallery

This gallery is almost like a zoo!
How so? Let us give you a clue!

Search the gallery high and low
for all the animals that you know.



Count them up, and you will see
it's as easy as 1, 2, 3 . . .

How many of each animal can you find?



bear	_____
beetle	_____
cricket	_____
duck	_____
firefly	_____
hermit crab	_____
ladybug	_____
seahorse	_____
sloth	_____
spider	_____





So many animals! but, do you know what each of them say and do?

Can you . . .

chirp like a cricket?

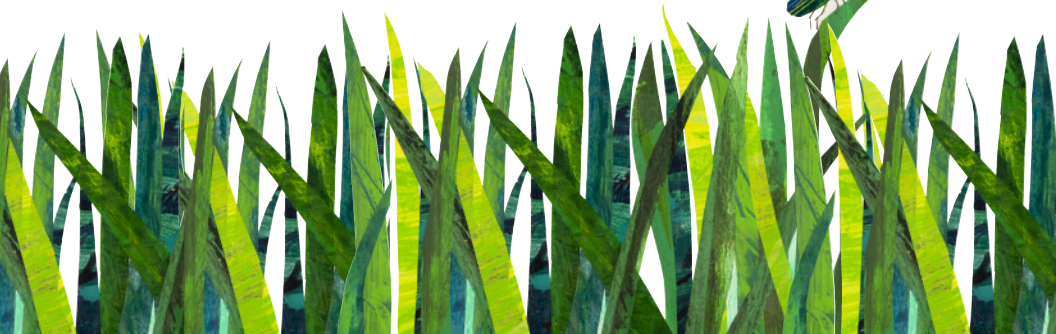
click like a beetle?

hissss like a snake?

move as sloooooooooooooowly as a sloth?

quack and waddle like a duck?

roar like a bear? (Or, sleep like a bear?
It depends on the time of year!)



F amily Activity for the Last Gallery

The Very Hungry Caterpillar is a beloved book about a little caterpillar who changes its look. To grow and transform from one thing to another, the caterpillar eats from one side to the other.

His daily eating was increased
and, by the end, he'd had a feast.



**As you change and grow,
what foods do you eat for energy?**

On Monday, I eat _____.
On Tuesday, I eat _____.
On Wednesday, I eat _____.
On Thursday, I eat _____.
On Friday, I eat _____.
On Saturday, I eat _____,
_____, _____,
_____, and _____.

Do you have a tummy ache too?
A nap on Sunday might be right for you!





Family Activities to Try at Home

Don't want the fun with Eric Carle to end? Here are some activities inspired by his books that you can do together after you leave the museum.

- Watch the sun rise and set.
- Make pancakes for breakfast. Gather up all the ingredients and talk about where they originally came from.
- Go on a nature walk. Observe the beauty of animals large and small.
- Paint a picture of an animal. Use whatever colors express your feelings.
- Plant a seed and watch it grow.
- Read a book by another children's book illustrator who uses collage, such as *Alexander and the Wind-Up Mouse* by Leo Lionni or *The Snowy Day* by Ezra Jack Keats.
- Look up at the night sky. Find the moon and stars. When the weather is right, look around for fireflies, too!



Eric Carle's Picture Books: Celebrating 50 Years of "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" was organized by The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art, Amherst, Massachusetts.

Illustrations

All artwork by Eric Carle unless otherwise indicated.

COVER, pages 6–8, and BACK COVER: Illustrations for *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* (Philomel Books). Collection of Eric and Barbara Carle. © 1969, 1987 Eric Carle

INSIDE COVER: *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* 50th Anniversary Artwork, 2018. Collection of Eric and Barbara Carle, courtesy of The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art, Amherst, MA. © Eric Carle

Page 2: Eric Carle, 2015. Photo by Jim Gipe, Pivot Media. © Eric Carle Studio

Page 3: Illustration for *Friends* (Philomel Books). Collection of Eric and Barbara Carle, courtesy of The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art, Amherst, MA. © 2013 Eric Carle

Pages 4–5, top: Illustration for *The Very Lonely Firefly* (Philomel Books). Collection of Eric and Barbara Carle, courtesy of The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art, Amherst, MA. © 1995 Eric Carle

Pages 4–5, bottom: Illustration for *The Very Clumsy Click Beetle* (Philomel Books). Collection of Eric and Barbara Carle, courtesy of The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art, Amherst, MA. © 1999 Eric Carle



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Celebrating **50** Years of
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