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## Caddiflies Life Cruise

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# Caddisflies Life Cruise

By: Chloe S

My class on April 25, at 9:42 we went outside to observe the vernal pool at Messalonskee Middle School's forest off the trail. We went outside to explore the critters and the region of the vernal pool. While we were there, we discovered that there was a Caddisfly in the vernal pool. Caddisflies are very interesting critters. Caddisflies adults are normally mistaken for moths because of their appearance. They don't start off born in their cases they make them using natural



materials like rocks; they use silk too. I'm wondering what Caddisflies mainly use to make their cases? Also, how much time do they spend in their cases (also how big do they have to build their cases so they can fit in it)?

Did you know that Caddisflies live for around a year? During that short period of time they build cases to protect themselves from predators. The most common materials Caddisflies use are sand, rocks, sticks, bits of leaves, and other things. To connect the materials to each other when making their case they use silk. They have an organ that produces Silk that helps them make their cases. They live in their cases for about a month. They stay in their cases until they mate and lay their eggs. Female Caddisflies lay about 800 eggs. Caddisflies use their cases as a cocoon and then

they turn into a "moth" during their emerging pupa stage. In their emerging pupa stages they are almost adults. Also during the emerging pupa stage when they are in their cocoon for several weeks before they come out and are almost adults. Caddisflies Adults are normally 3-15 millimeters long and their wingspan is about 8 to 40 millimeters wide.

Caddisflies are animals that live in a vernal pool for a portion of their life. In the spring they appear and then they dry up in the summer. To answer my question from earlier I would say that Caddisflies mainly use rocks, sticks, leafs, and grains of sand. They also spend about a year in their cases because they need the time to be able to mate and lay eggs in the vernal pool. TO answer my side question from earlier that they need to make their cases about 2 centimeters long and about 1 centimeters wide. One question I still have is how long do they live after their emerging pupa stage? Caddisflies are a very interesting topic and I would definitely research them again.

## Citations

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