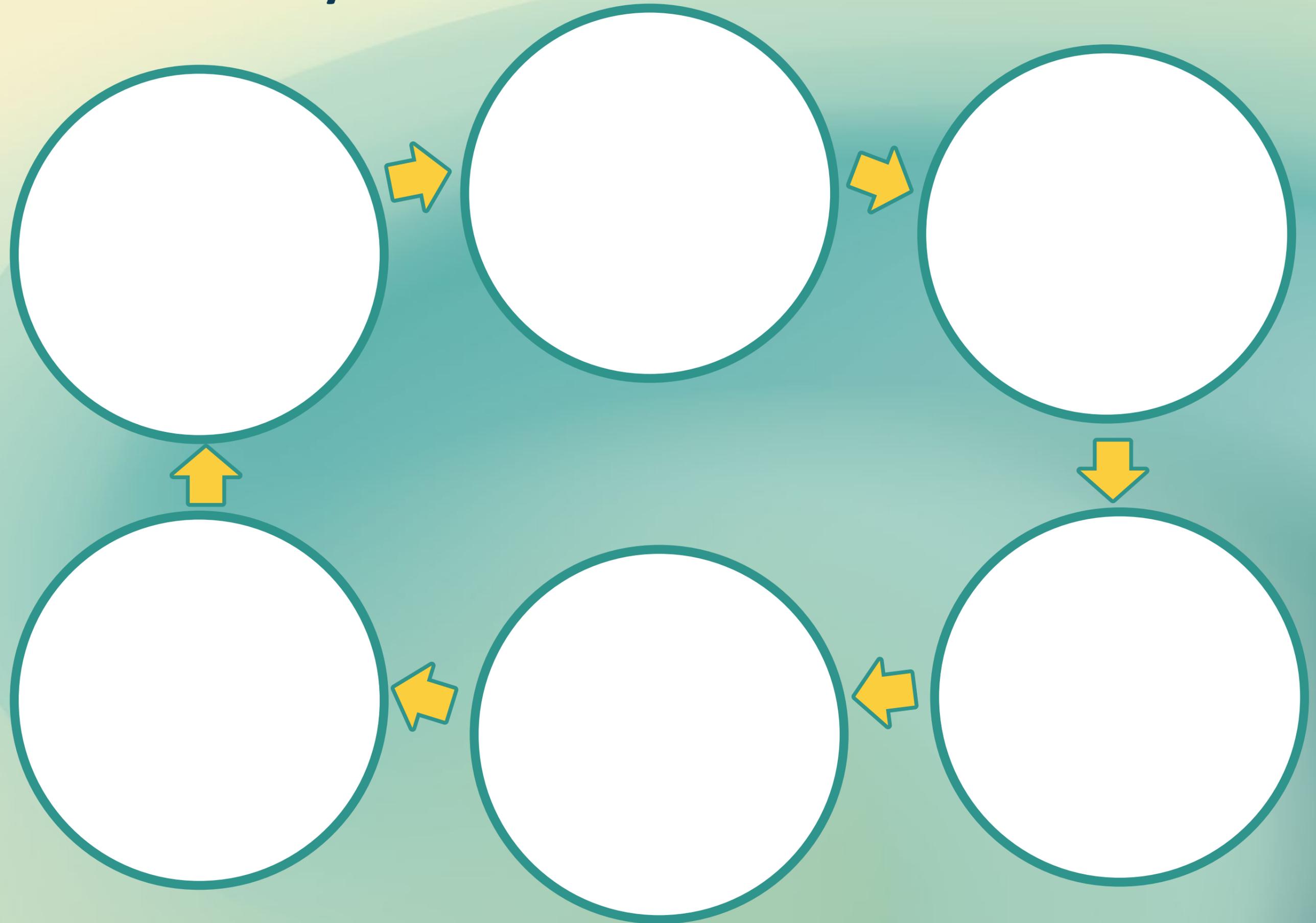
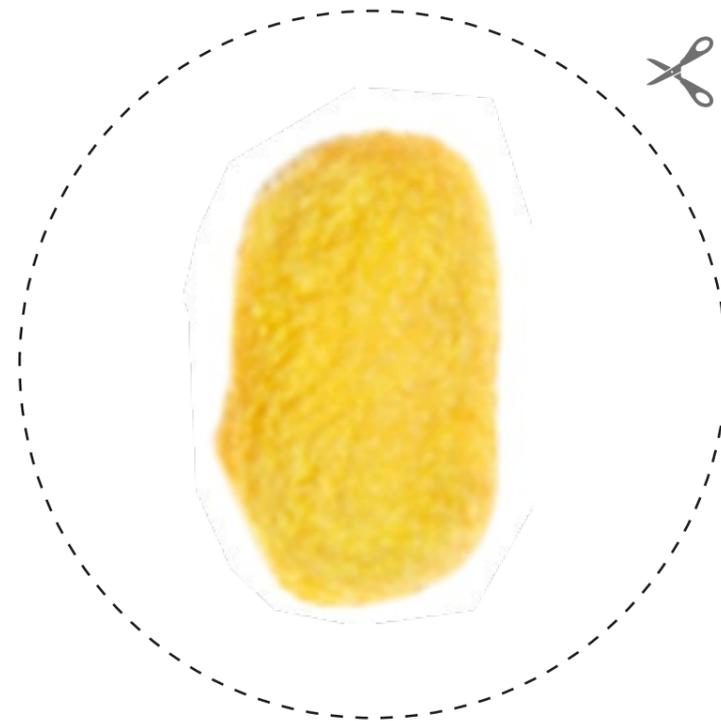
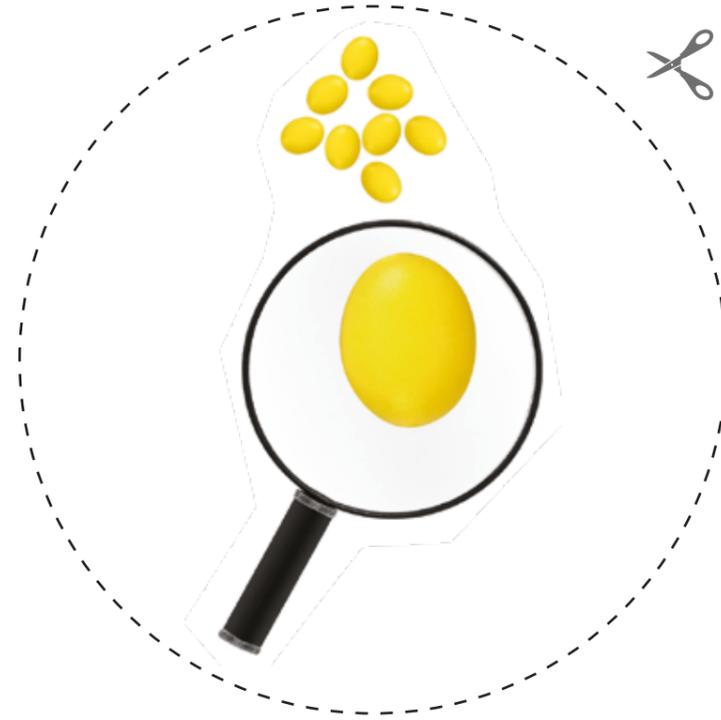


Silkworm lifecycle board



Silkworm lifecycle discs



Information Card 1- The silkworm

A silkworm is a moth caterpillar, the *Bombyx mori*. The caterpillar lives on mulberry trees and eats the leaves until it is ready to change into a moth.

Silkworms weave themselves into a cocoon. The caterpillar produces a sticky liquid and this liquid sets into a single long thread that winds round and round the caterpillar.

Inside the caterpillar is transforming to a moth. The process is called metamorphosis.



Useful words:

caterpillar	máo mao chóng	毛毛虫
moth	é	蛾
silkworm	cán é	蚕蛾



mulberry tree	sāng shù	桑树
silkworm cocoon	cán jiǎn	蚕茧
metamorphosis	biàn tài	变态



Information Card 2- Production of silk

The cocoons of the silkworm are collected and boiled so they can be unwound into long silk threads. Each cocoon has a single thread up to ½ mile long.

The threads of silk from the cocoons are washed, then woven together into cloth.

Silk has been produced for about 4,000 years. This has led to the extinction of the silkworm in the wild but it is farmed in captivity.

Wild silkworms all made yellow silk, to blend in with dead leaves. Over the years, the silkworm farmers have bred the moths for whiter and whiter silk. The whiter the thread means it can be dyed any colour without having to bleach it first.



Useful words:

silk	sī chóu	丝绸
thread	xiàn	线

Information Card 3 - The Silk Road

Although China was able to produce many items, merchants still wanted to trade with other countries for different goods.

One of the most valuable items which China could use to trade with was silk.

For many years, the Chinese held the secret to making silk. The westerners did not know that silk was made from the threads of the cocoons of silkworms.

The route from China to the Middle East and then to Europe was called 'The Silk Road'.

The Silk Road was more than 4,000 miles long.

Useful words:

The Silk Road	sī chóu zhī lù	丝绸之路
map	dì tú	地图
route	lù tú	路途



A painting showing Chinese women inspecting silk.



The map shows the ancient silk route. The red line shows the land route. The blue shows the sea route.

