Step 1: Look

Observe and Analyze

People

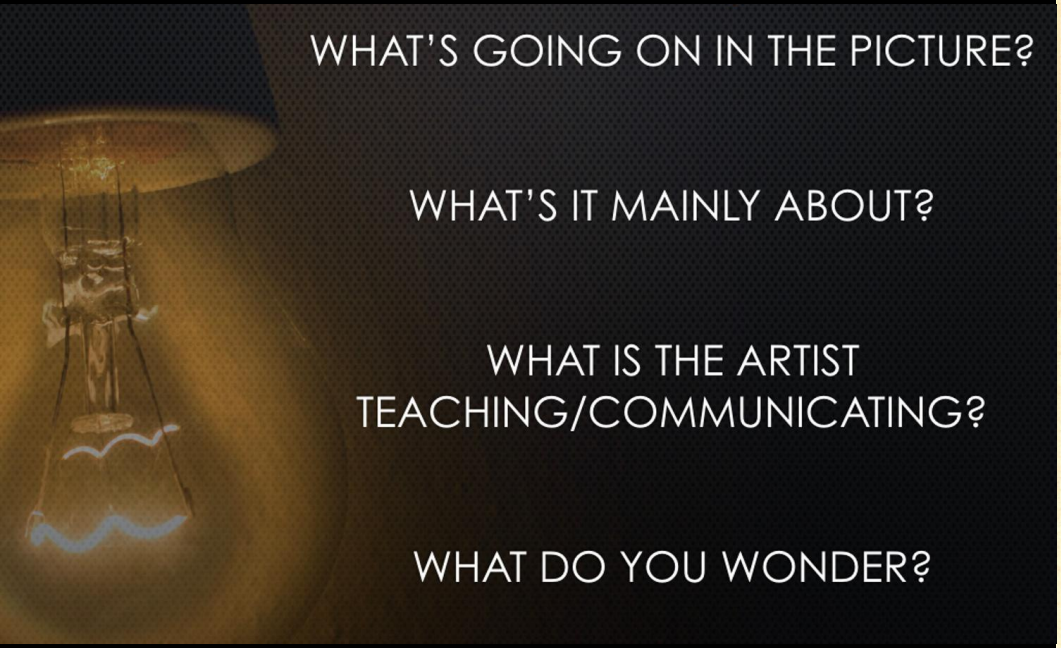
"Do not, dear reader, let the pleasure of your eyes be spoiled; judge not too quickly, but read me from beginning to end."
- Maria Merian

Insects, Bugs, Butterflies, and More!

Arts Integration Lesson

Who is Maria Sibylla Merian?

- Born April 2nd, 1647 in Germany
- Died January 13th, 1717 in the Netherlands how old was she when she passed?
- She was a Naturalist and a Scientific Illustrator
- She was one of the first to observe insects directly!



WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE PICTURE?

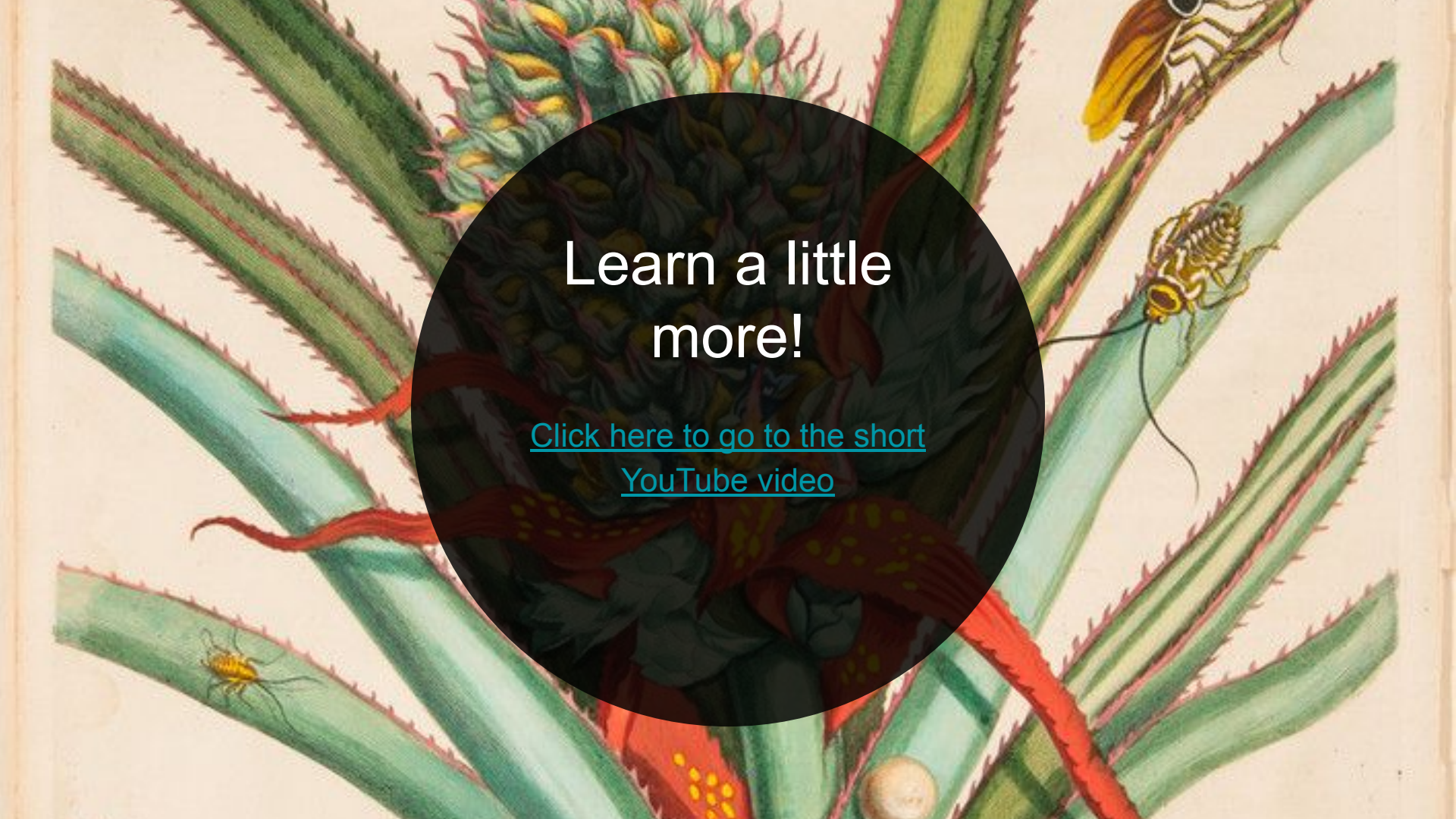
WHAT'S IT MAINLY ABOUT?

WHAT IS THE ARTIST TEACHING/COMMUNICATING?

WHAT DO YOU WONDER?

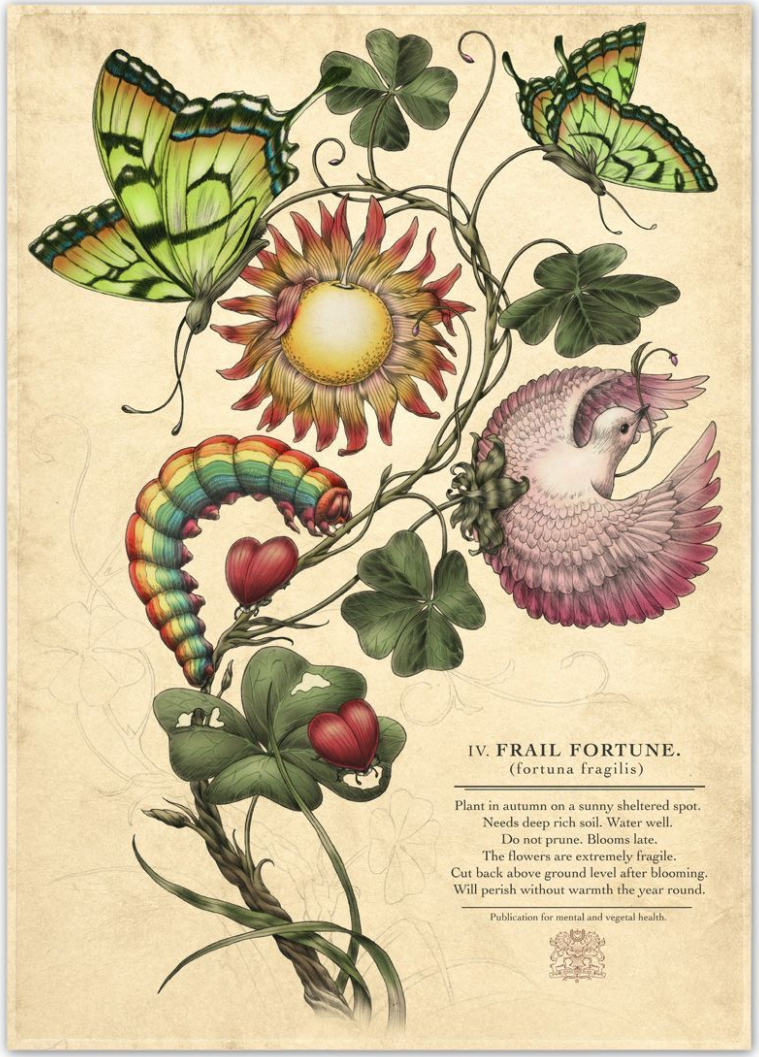
Fact or Fiction?

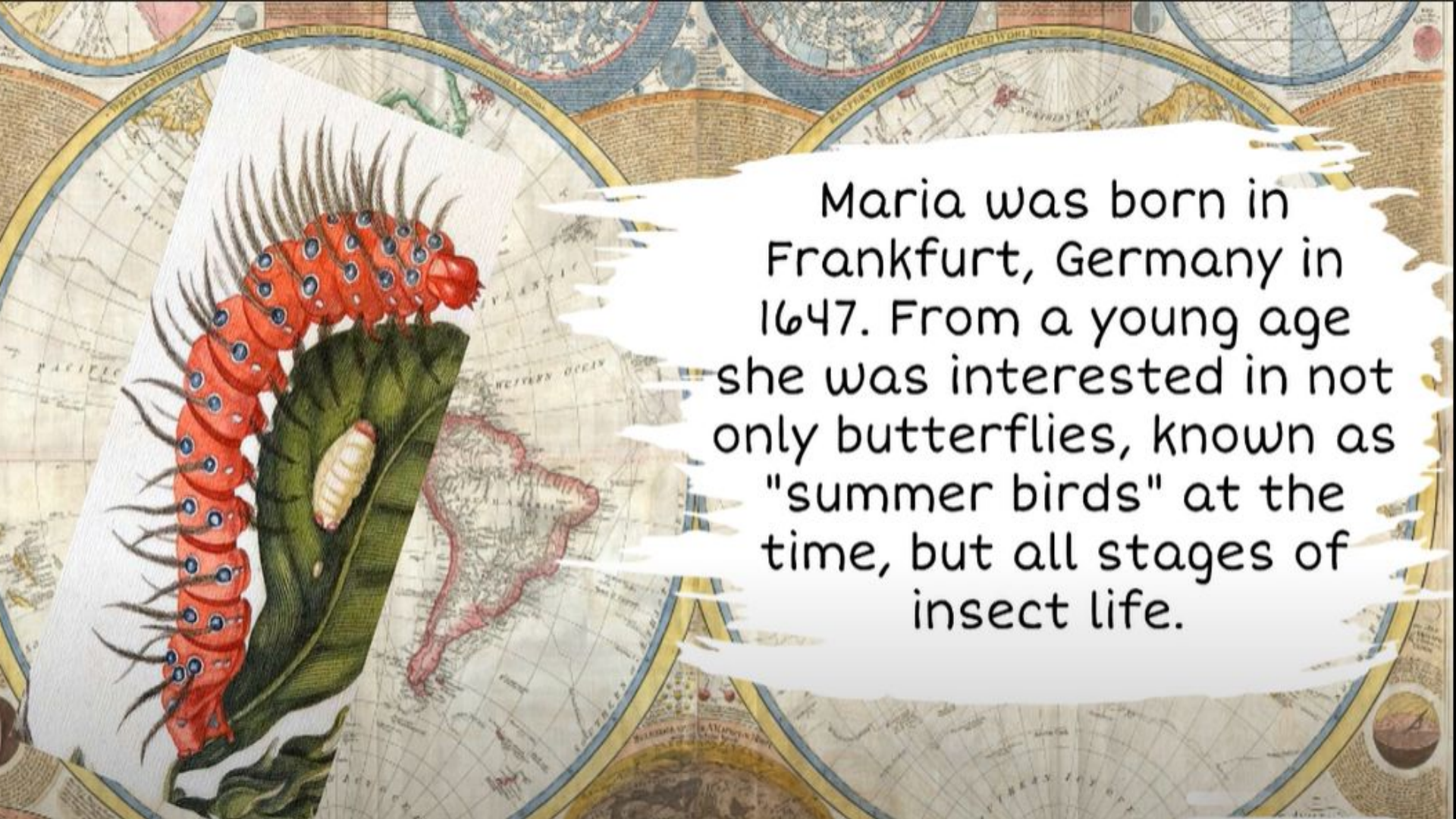
Before Maria Sibylla Merian's discoveries, the popular belief was that spontaneously came from the mud!


Learn a little more!
Click here to go to the short YouTube video

Maria proved butterflies came from caterpillars!

Maria Merian was born during a time where her future was limited to the domestic, when wasps were beings that leapt from fire, and her interest in "noxious animals" could have have her labeled as and hung for being a witch.


IV. FRAIL FORTUNE.
(fortuna fragilis)
Plant in autumn on a sunny sheltered spot.
Needs deep rich soil. Water well.
Do not prune. Blooms late.
The flowers are extremely fragile.
Cut back above ground level after blooming.
Will perish without warmth the year round.
Publication for mental and vegetal health.

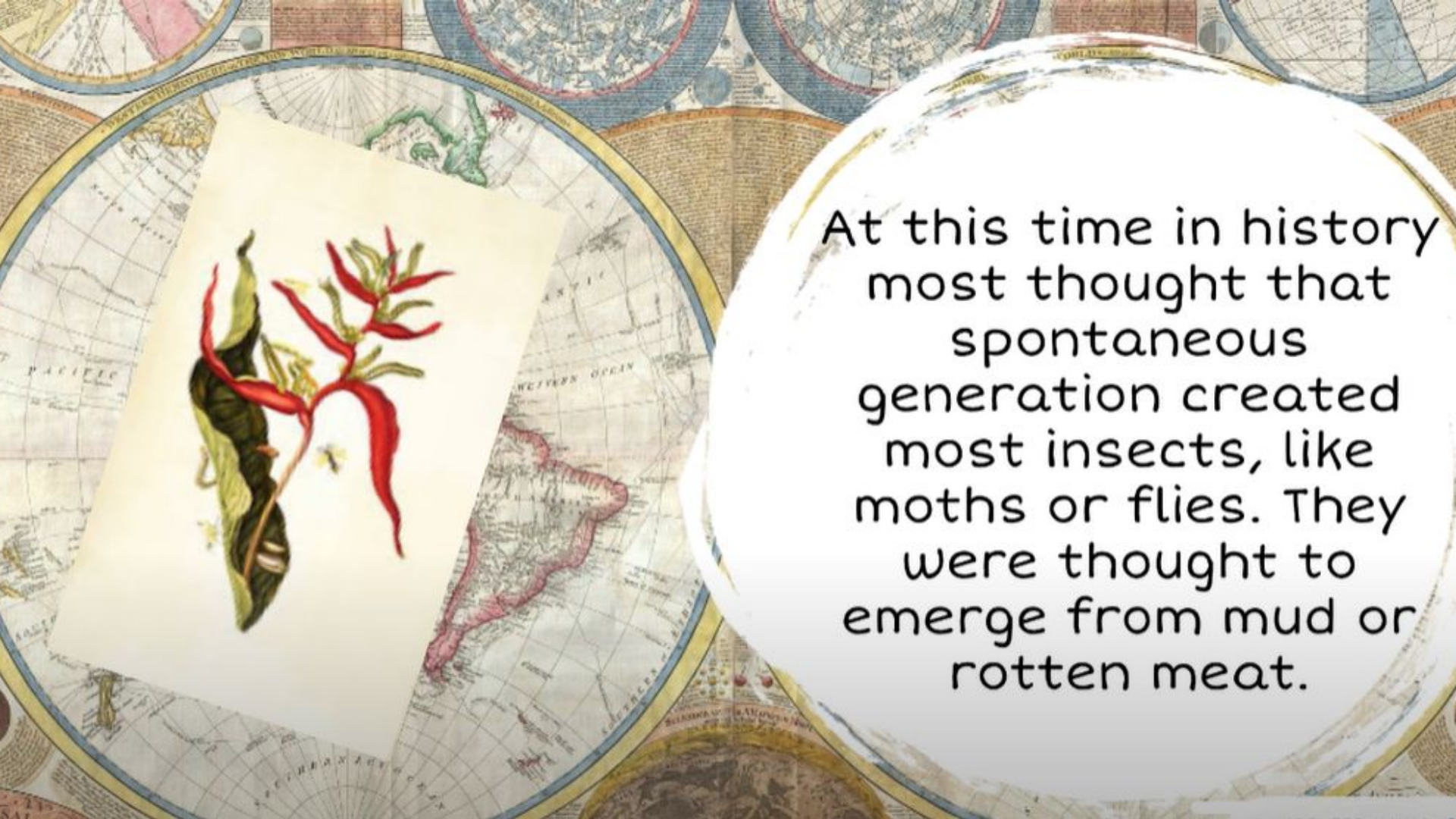


Maria was born in Frankfurt, Germany in 1647. From a young age she was interested in not only butterflies, known as "summer birds" at the time, but all stages of insect life.

How were the small as needle point drops, ruff pods, and beautiful flying creatures she saw in her garden all connected she wondered?

She recorded and illustrated the life cycles of 186 insect species.

As a woman Maria was not allowed to apprentice under her artist stepfather or study formally. However, she still learned a great deal from her stepfather and his apprentices.



At this time in history most thought that spontaneous generation created most insects, like moths or flies. They were thought to emerge from mud or rotten meat.

However, this explanation did not match Maria's observations. So she sought to conduct her own research, and share her findings with others. Her curiosity took her outside of Europe even!

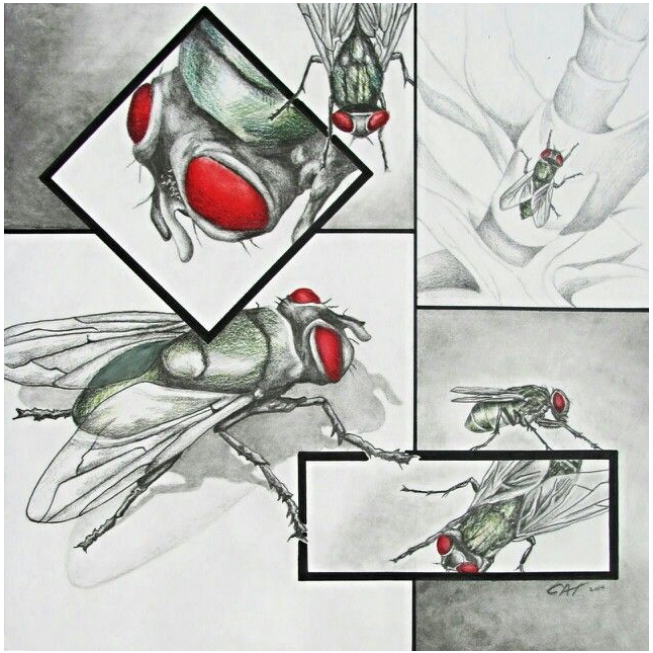
While Maria may have faced opposition from more conservative circles, even her husband, she could not ignore the insects that fascinated her. She published her own patterns for embroidery that included her beloved "summer birds." However, pattern making was not enough to satisfy her curiosity about insects and their environment.

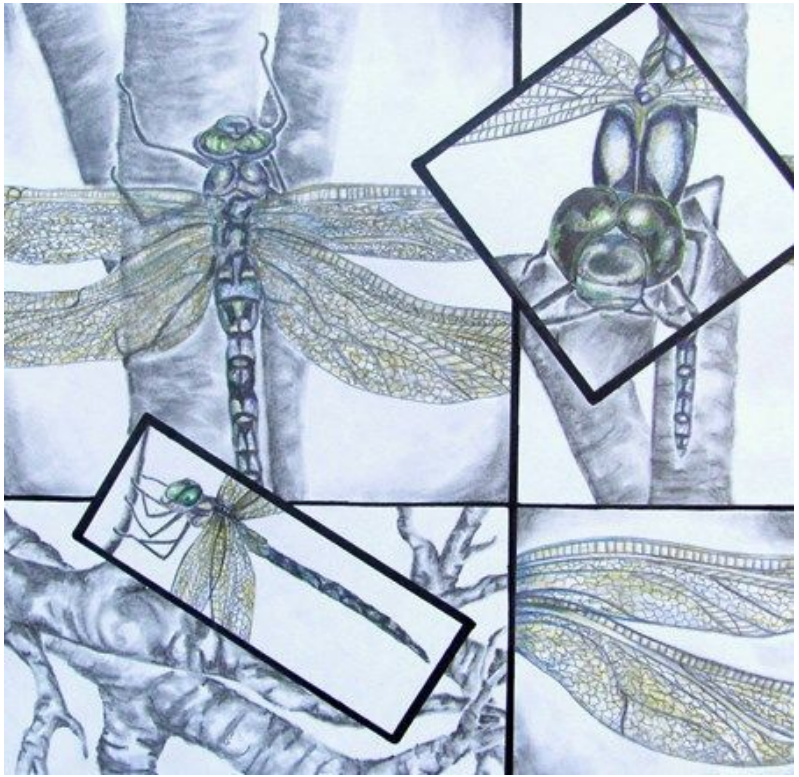
What were Maria's Biggest Accomplishments?

LET'S TALK
ABOUT IT
Process and Share
WHEN I SEE _____,
IT MAKES ME (THINK, FEEL OR WONDER) _____.
I (THINK, FEEL OR WONDER) _____
BECAUSE I SEE _____.

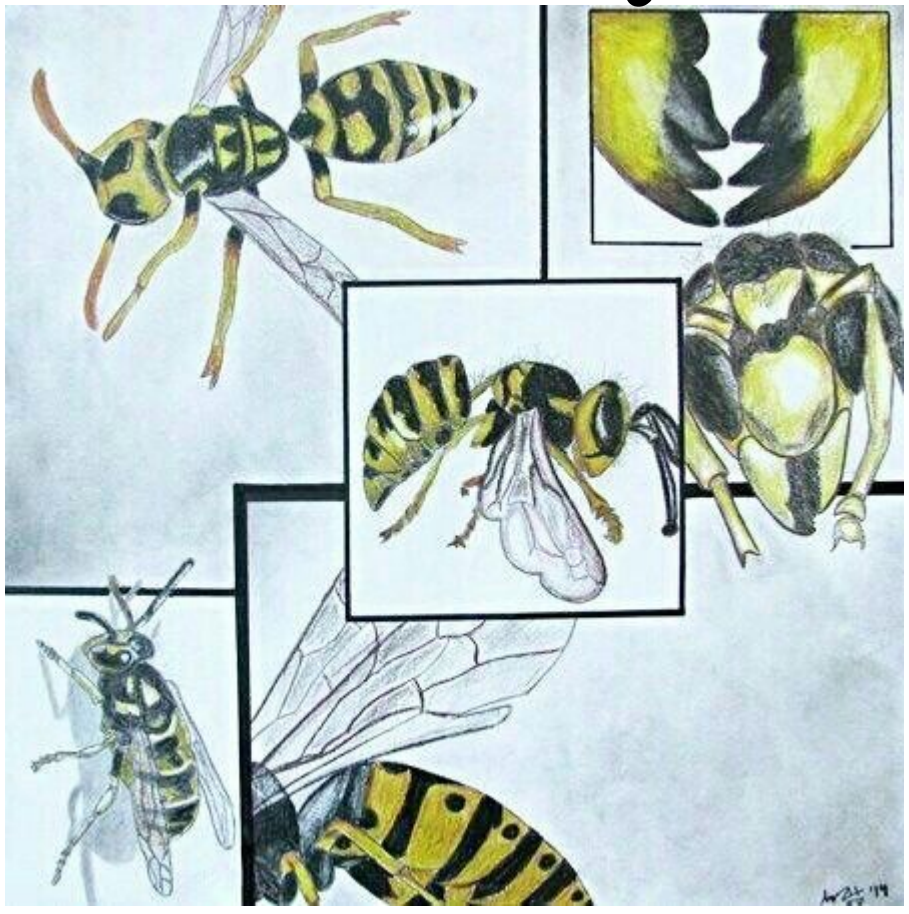
feeling inspired?

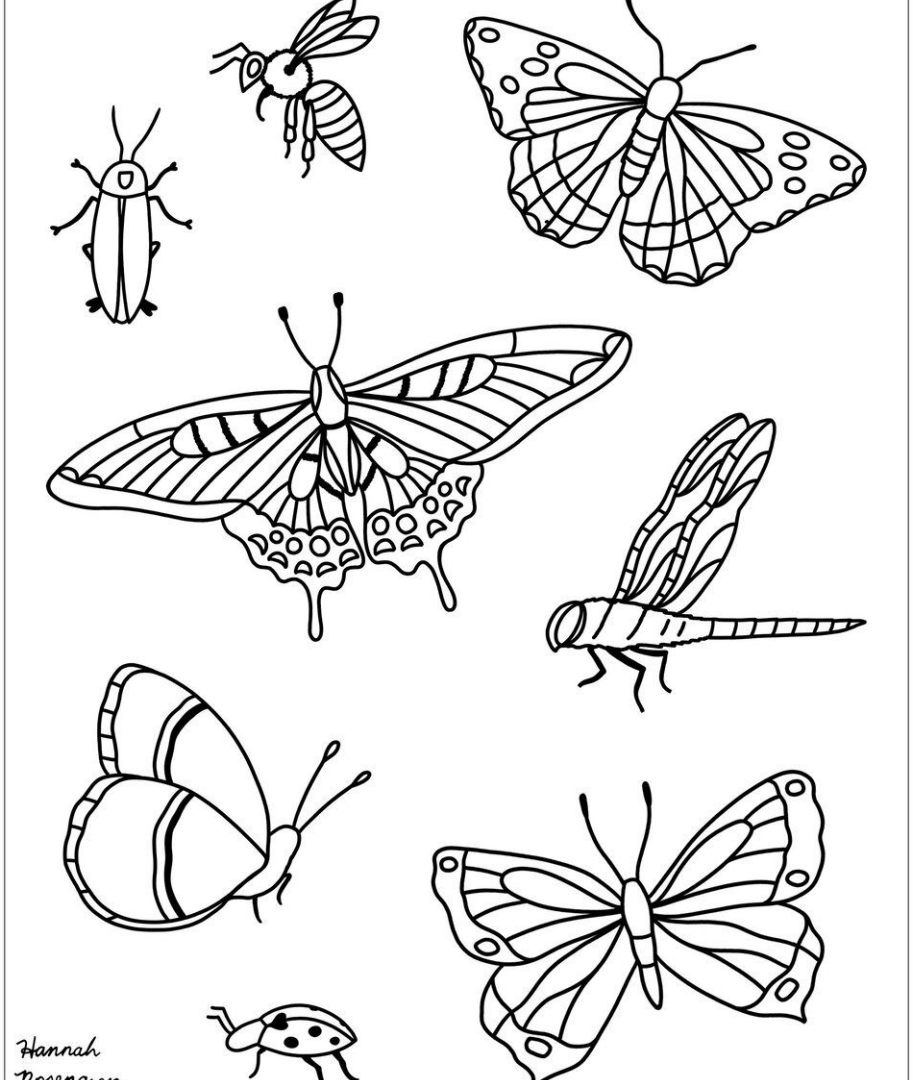
Now it's your turn to observe an insect and draw them!





What insect will you choose?





Make sure to look at pictures and observe the lines, shapes, and colors in your insect!