

Butterfly Life Cycle Study Guide

Vocabulary

- **Proboscis:** A long straw like feeding tube that butterflies use to sip nectar from flowers.
- **Metamorphosis:** A series of physical changes that some animals go through to become adults.
- **Prolegs:** Short legs with hooks on them found on the abdomen of a caterpillar.
- **Compound eye:** The eye of a butterfly made up of many individual lenses.
- **Pupa :** The stage of a caterpillar inside the chrysalis.
- **Camouflage:** Color and patterns on an animal that allow it to blend in to its environment.
- **Antennae:** Long appendages attached to the head of a butterfly used to sense its environment.
- **Chrysalis:** The hard shell spun by a caterpillar, moth, or other insect where metamorphosis takes place

Know the 4 stages of the butterfly (see diagram)

- The life cycle starts with a very small egg.
- The 2nd stage is the larva (caterpillar). It begins with a tiny worm like caterpillar that hatches from the egg. The caterpillars main job is to eat. Its first meal is often the outer shell of its egg. The larva will grow quickly shedding its skin 4-5 times during this stage.
- The 3rd stage is the Chrysalis (pupa) stage. It begins when the caterpillar has eaten enough food to transform once again. During this stage, the caterpillar forms a pupa/chrysalis. This is the protective shell that keeps the caterpillar safe while it changes into an adult butterfly.
- The 4th stage is the adult stage. The adult emerges from the chrysalis. It will rest, flapping its wings to straighten and dry them. This movement helps pump blood into the butterfly's wings so it can fly. This stage completes the butterfly's metamorphosis.

Know the Parts of a Butterfly (see diagram).

FACTS:

- Caterpillars hang in an J shape before they form a chrysalis.
- Butterflies lay eggs on leaves caterpillars will eat.
- Caterpillars use their strong jaws to munch on leaves of trees and plants with flowers).
- Butterflies eat one type of plant during their entire lives.
- Caterpillars don't need to drink water. They get all the moisture they need from the leaves they eat.

- Caterpillars use camouflage to blend into their surroundings to protect themselves from predators.
- Eye spots help protect a caterpillar.
- Some caterpillars have unpleasant odors to protect themselves from predators.
- Butterflies are not the same as moths. Butterflies are diurnal (active in the daytime) and moths are nocturnal (active in the night time).
- Butterflies sip nectar that provides them with nutrients.
- Butterflies protect themselves by eating plants that make them toxic/poisonous to predators. Predators that eat them will get sick and avoid eating any butterfly that resembles the one that made them ill.
- Butterflies also protect themselves use bright colors to warn predators.