

Name:

Date:

The Life Cycle of a Butterfly



A butterfly goes through several amazing changes during its life. This process begins with a tiny egg and ends with an adult butterfly.

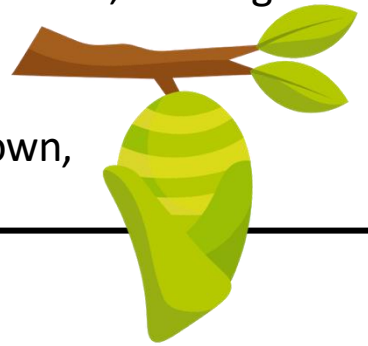
First, a female butterfly lays her eggs on a plant. After several days, a tiny caterpillar hatches from each egg.

The caterpillar spends most of its time eating leaves and growing larger. As it grows, the caterpillar sheds its skin several times. When it is fully grown, it attaches itself to a safe place and forms a hard covering called a chrysalis.

Inside the chrysalis, an incredible change takes place. The caterpillar's body transforms as it develops wings, long legs and other adult features.

Finally, the adult butterfly breaks out of the chrysalis. At first, its wings are soft and wet. The butterfly waits for them to dry and become strong before flying away.

Once it is fully grown, the butterfly can lay eggs of its own, beginning the life cycle all over again.



1. What happens first in the life cycle of a butterfly?

2. What does the caterpillar do after it hatches?

3. Which happens first: the caterpillar forms a chrysalis or develops wings?

4. What happens after the adult butterfly comes out of the chrysalis?

5. Put these events in the correct order by numbering them 1–4.

- ___ An adult butterfly comes out.
- ___ A caterpillar hatches.
- ___ The butterfly lays eggs.
- ___ The caterpillar forms a chrysalis.



Answers

1. A female butterfly lays eggs on a plant.
2. It eats leaves and grows larger.
3. The caterpillar forms a chrysalis first.
4. It waits for its wings to dry and become strong before flying away.
5. Correct order:
 1. The butterfly lays eggs.
 2. A caterpillar hatches.
 3. The caterpillar forms a chrysalis.
 4. An adult butterfly comes out.