

The Life Cycle of a Butterfly

The life cycle of a butterfly is amazing.

The Egg

A butterfly will lay its eggs on a leaf.



The Caterpillar

A tiny caterpillar eats its way out of the egg. They eat lots of leaves and grow very quickly.



The Chrysalis

The caterpillar turns itself into a chrysalis. The chrysalis turns hard over time.



The Butterfly

A butterfly comes out of the chrysalis. It waits until its wings have dried before it can fly.

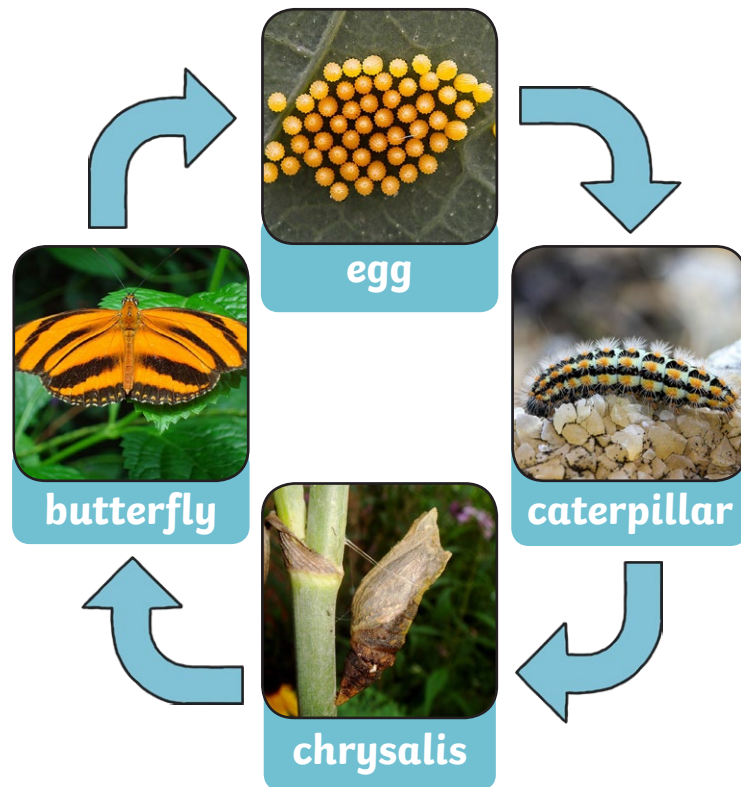
Fun Facts!

- A caterpillar will shed its skin four or five times before it changes into a chrysalis.
- Caterpillars have 16 legs.
- Butterflies actually have four wings!

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From Egg to Caterpillar

- A butterfly lays her eggs on a leaf or the stem of a plant.
- Tiny caterpillars grow inside the eggs.
- When a caterpillar is ready, it eats its way out of the egg.

From Caterpillar to Chrysalis

- When the caterpillar is fully grown, it changes itself into a chrysalis.
- A chrysalis is the stage that happens to the insect after it is a caterpillar, but before it becomes a butterfly.
- The caterpillar changes into a butterfly inside the chrysalis.

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From Chrysalis to Butterfly

- When the butterfly is ready, the chrysalis splits open and the butterfly crawls out.
- The butterfly needs to wait until its wings are dry before it can fly.
- The butterfly will find a mate and the life cycle will start again!

Fun Fact!

- Butterflies drink, rather than eat.
- They will drink nectar from flowers and sweet liquid from fruit.



The Life Cycle of a Butterfly

The life cycle of a butterfly is amazing. Read on to find out how a butterfly goes from an egg to a butterfly!

The Egg

The life cycle of a butterfly starts when a female butterfly lays her eggs on a leaf or the stem of a plant.

The eggs are very tiny, and different types of butterflies will lay eggs in different shapes, sizes and colours. Tiny caterpillars grow inside these eggs.



From Egg to Caterpillar

When a caterpillar is ready, it eats its way out of its egg. Caterpillars are always hungry and they will start to eat leaves straight away!

As the caterpillar eats more and more, it gets bigger and bigger. The caterpillar will need to shed its skin because it becomes too tight. A caterpillar may shed its skin four or five times as it grows!



From Caterpillar to Chrysalis

When a caterpillar is fully grown, it changes itself into a chrysalis. A hard case then forms around the chrysalis. Inside the case, the caterpillar starts to change into a butterfly.



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The Butterfly

When the butterfly is ready, the casing of the chrysalis splits open and the butterfly emerges (comes out).

The butterfly cannot fly straight away as its wings are soft, wet and wrinkled. The butterfly needs to wait until its wings are dry before it can fly.

The butterfly spends its time feeding from the nectar of flowers. It will also drink sweet liquid from fruit.

When it is ready, it will look for a mate and the whole life cycle of the butterfly will begin again!



Fun Facts!

- Most caterpillars have 16 legs.
- Caterpillars sometimes have tiny hairs on their bodies. This helps to protect them from predators.

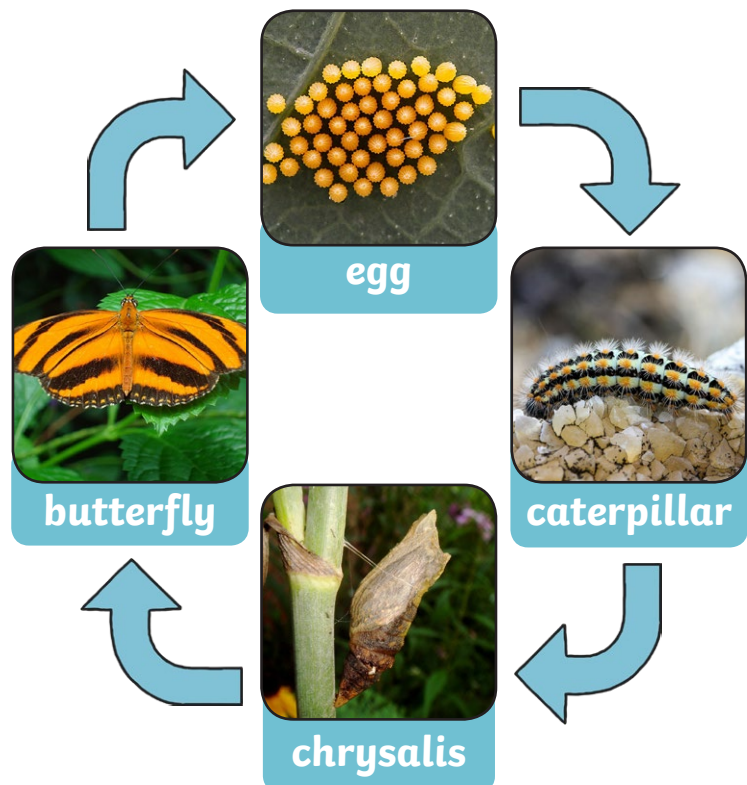


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