

Life Cycle Of A Butterfly

Egg

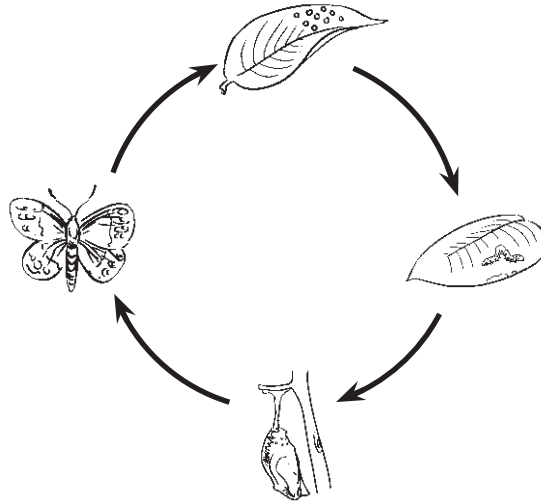
Stage 1: After laying its eggs on the leaves or stem of a plant, the butterfly flies away, leaving its eggs to hatch on their own.

Larva

Stage 2: Each egg hatches into a young caterpillar or larva after approximately 5 -10 days. The caterpillar has a big appetite. It feeds on leaves and grows very fast. It breathes through holes in its body known as spiracles. After a few days, it becomes too big for its skin. It will change its skin in a process known as moulting. Moulting takes place a few times as the caterpillar grows.

Adult

Stage 4: When the pupa finally opens, a fully developed adult butterfly comes out. The butterfly may then lay eggs and start another life cycle once more. After all, it usually only lives for two weeks!



Pupa

Stage 3: Three weeks later, the caterpillar becomes a pupa. It stays inside a hard shell called a chrysalis that hangs from the branch of a tree or plant. Although nothing seems to be happening from the outside, many changes are taking place inside the chrysalis. The pupa is undergoing metamorphosis to transform itself into a butterfly.

A four-stage life cycle of a butterfly

The **housefly** and **moth** follow a similar four-stage life cycle too.

Adapted:

Science Partner_A Complete Guide to Lower Block Science

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