

BEAUTIFUL BUTTERFLIES



Butterflies are so beautiful! They are such interesting creatures. Did you know butterflies have 4 wings and can taste with their feet?



The butterfly life cycle has 4 stages. A butterfly passes through each one.

First, a female butterfly finds the perfect leaf to lay her eggs. 3 to 5 days later, a hungry caterpillar (larvae) emerges. It eats leaves day and night to grow big and fat. Next, a butterfly hangs by a silk thread from a leaf in a chrysalis. Inside it forms into a butterfly. Finally, 2 weeks from the start, a butterfly emerges as the chrysalis cracks. About an hour later the butterfly can fly.

A butterfly is a herbivore and eats nectar from flowers. As it feeds, the butterfly pollinates plants so they can reproduce. This is an important job.

Butterflies can live for a week or up to a year. It depends on the species.

There are more than 15,000 different species of butterflies. Some even glow in the dark.

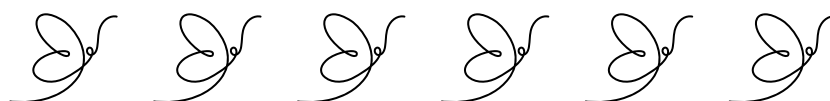
Butterflies can fly well and their wings consist of multi-colored patterns made of tiny scales.

The monarch butterfly winters in huge numbers in Mexico and migrates over 4,000 kilometers each year.

Moths are like butterflies but there are some differences. Especially, moths aren't as colorful.

Many people collect butterflies. Why not start your own collection?

Don't you think butterflies are one of the most beautiful creatures of the animal kingdom?



INSECTS OF THE WORLD

Insect Name:

My picture of the insect:

Where does this insect live?

Is this insect helpful or harmful to humans? Why?

What kinds of things does this insect like to eat?

What are the insect's lifecycle stages?

Fun Facts:

BUTTERFLIES

The butterfly is an insect. Butterflies are noted for their wings, which are often colorful and bright.

Butterfly wings are a bit like bird wings. Bird wings are made of feathers, but butterfly wings are made of tiny overlapping scales. The wings are colored in various patterns. Some butterfly wings look iridescent (changing rainbow colors, depending on the light) because of the way light hits the scales.

Butterflies have an interesting life cycle. They start as eggs. When they are born, they are what we call caterpillars. This is the larval stage for the caterpillar. The caterpillars then move into a cocoon, becoming what we call a chrysalis. This is the pupal stage. When the insect comes out of the cocoon, we call it a butterfly. This is the adult stage for the butterfly. These clear stages of changing on the way to adulthood are called metamorphosis. Many animals go through metamorphosis, but the butterfly's changes are more dramatic than most.

Butterflies can be found almost all over the world. There may be as many as twenty thousand different species of butterflies.

Butterflies usually eat flower nectar. Because of this, they are important to the life cycle of many flowers. Butterflies also need minerals, which they usually get from water found in dirt and sand.

They reach their adult stage in the summer. Some butterflies migrate. The Monarch butterflies migrate about 3000 miles (4800 km) every year. They fly between Mexico and California.

1. What kind of animal is a butterfly?

- a. A bird
- b. An insect
- c. A spider
- d. A mammal

2. Which of the following about butterfly wings is TRUE?

- a. They are just like bird wings.
- b. They are the colors of the rainbow.
- c. They are made of scales.
- d. All the wings are covered in the same pattern.



3. The butterfly life cycle is:

- a. Egg, caterpillar, chrysalis, butterfly
- b. Egg, insectal, pupal, adult
- c. Larval, pupal, crystal, adult
- d. None of the above.

4. Metamorphosis is...

- a. the process of growing up.
- b. turning from one thing into another.
- c. a major change.
- d. the combination of all of the above.

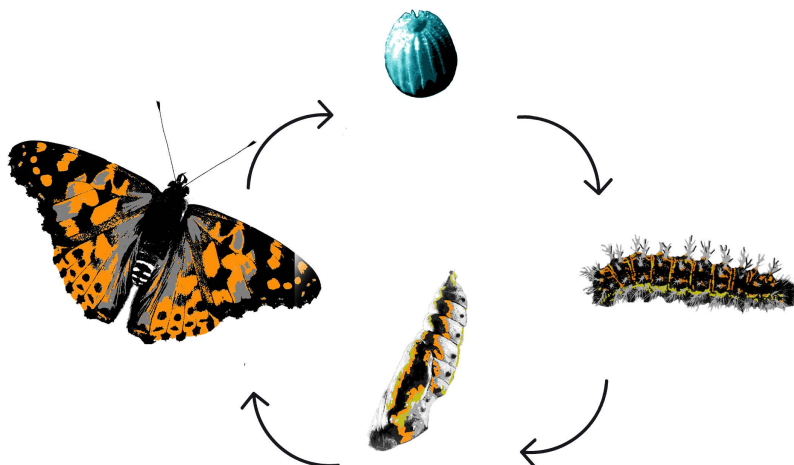
5. Where can you find butterflies?

- a. The butterfly habitat is anywhere it is warm.
- b. You can find them in forests and tundra regions.
- c. Butterflies are restricted to the Americas.
- d. Butterflies can be found almost all over the world.

6. What do butterflies eat?

- a. Dirt, sand, and nectar.
- b. Nectar and minerals.
- c. Flowers and other plants.
- d. Other insects.

Label and describe the 4 stages of the life cycle of a butterfly.



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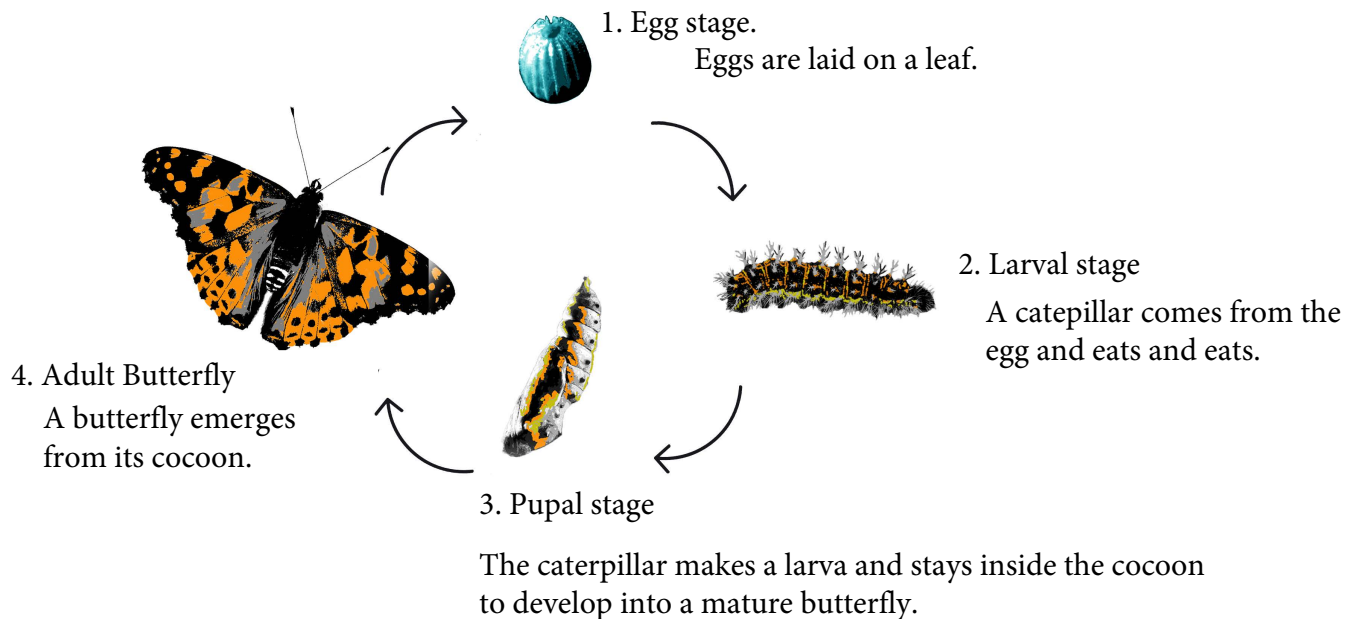
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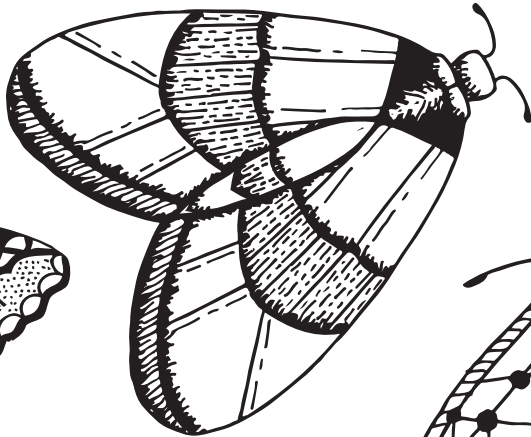
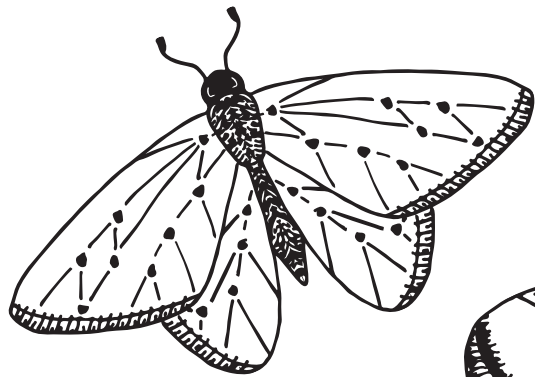
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Brilliant Butterflies



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