



# Butterfly Life Cycle



*Read the passage below and answer the questions on the next page.*

Butterflies are fascinating insects that go through a life cycle consisting of **four stages**. Each stage plays an essential role in the transformation from a tiny egg to a beautiful butterfly.



**Egg Stage**

The life cycle of a butterfly begins with the female butterfly laying eggs. The eggs are tiny, and their color and shape vary depending on the species of the butterfly. The eggs are usually laid on leaves, where they will be safe and have easy access to food.

After a few days, the egg hatches into a caterpillar. At this stage, the caterpillar is very small but grows quickly by eating leaves. The caterpillar sheds its skin several times, a process known as molting. The caterpillar will continue to eat and grow until it's fully grown.



**Caterpillar Stage**



**Chrysalis Stage**

After a few weeks of eating, the caterpillar will turn into a chrysalis. The chrysalis is a protective shell that the caterpillar makes around itself. Inside, the caterpillar will change its body completely into that of a butterfly. This process takes a few weeks.

Finally, the butterfly will emerge from the chrysalis. At first, its wings will be wet and crumpled. The butterfly will pump blood into its wings to make them strong and straight. When ready to fly, the adult butterfly will search for food and a mate to start the cycle anew.



**Butterfly Stage**

1) What is the first stage of the butterfly's life cycle?

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2. How does the caterpillar grow during the caterpillar stage?

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3) What is a chrysalis?

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4) How does the butterfly make its wings strong and straight?

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5) What does the adult butterfly search for after emerging from the chrysalis?

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