

The Life Cycle of a Butterfly



A butterfly begins its life as a small white egg



About 5 days later the egg hatches into a small caterpillar

A caterpillar's first meal is its own egg shell!



Caterpillars eat a huge amount of leaves so this stage is sometimes called the eating stage!

Caterpillars grow very quickly and have to shed their skins many times as they grow out of them. They then eat their skins as well!

The caterpillar becomes a chrysalis



After a few weeks the caterpillar attaches itself to a twig and forms a hard outer shell called a chrysalis or pupa. There is no eating during this stage, this is the time where the caterpillar is transforming.

Camouflaged chrysalis



The chrysalis or pupa is usually camouflaged to protect it from predators. Inside the Chrysalis the caterpillar transforms into a beautiful butterfly.

The butterfly emerges from the chrysalis

An adult butterfly will only live for about 2 weeks.



The sun warms the butterfly's body and it is able to fly to different flowers and suck nectar using its long, curly tongue. Butterflies can not bite or chew.

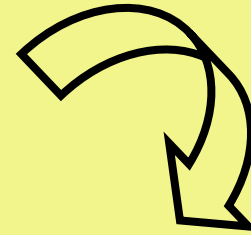
The female butterfly then lays more eggs!



Some butterflies can lay as many as 500 eggs!
Butterfly eggs are different shapes and sizes.

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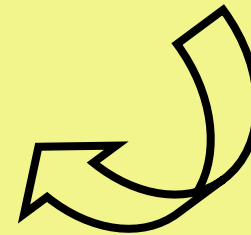
egg



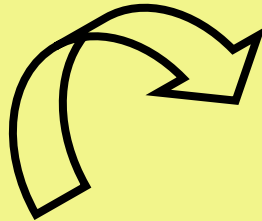
Caterpillar



Chrysalis or Pupa



Butterfly



There are around 150, 000 different kinds of butterflies and moths



Peacock



Common blue



Orange-tip

Butterflies and moths come in many different colours, shapes and sizes. Some have scary eye spots to scare away predators or give them time to escape.

Moths are different to butterflies!



Garden Tiger Moth



Elephant Hawk Moth

Moths are active at night time. Butterflies are active in the day time. Moths do not have a chrysalis, instead they spin their own outer shell which is called a cocoon.

What do you notice about the markings on a butterfly?



You are now going to make your own butterfly finger puppet!