

LIFE CYCLE OF A BUTTERFLY



Eggs

Female butterflies lay lots of small round eggs onto the leaf or stem of a plant.



Caterpillar Larva

The eggs hatch in 4 to 10 days. The larva (caterpillar) eats the plant it was born on and grows quickly over the next 2 weeks to a month.



Adult Butterfly

Once ready, the adult butterfly breaks free from the chrysalis, dries its wings and flies off to find a mate.



Chrysalis (Pupa)

When the caterpillar is fully grown, it forms a pupa (known as a chrysalis). This is attached to a twig or a leaf to keep it safe. Inside the pupa, the caterpillar is slowly changing into a butterfly. This is called metamorphosis.

Did You Know?

- Butterflies taste with their feet.
- Butterflies are cold-blooded and cannot move, fly or eat if their body temperature falls below 13°C.
- Butterflies mostly live on liquid from nectar, plants or even dung.
- Most butterflies live for 2 to 4 weeks.