

Butterflies

Butterflies have a complete life cycle. This means that they have four separate stages in their life. Each stage is different from the other. Each stage serves a different purpose.



The first stage in a butterfly's life cycle is the egg. An egg is a tiny, round object. The mom attaches the egg to leaves or stems. It is usually on or near the food the caterpillar will need.



The second stage in a butterfly's life cycle is the caterpillar (also called the larva.) The caterpillar is a long, worm-like creature. Caterpillars often have a pattern of stripes or patches and may have small hairs. A caterpillar eats leaves and sheds its skin four or more times as it gets bigger.



The third stage in a butterfly's life cycle is the chrysalis (also called the pupa.) This is the transformation stage. During this time a caterpillar is changing into a butterfly. A chrysalis is usually brown or green and blends into its surroundings.



The final stage begins when the adult butterfly emerges from the chrysalis. The butterfly is mobile which means it can travel. Many butterflies migrate.