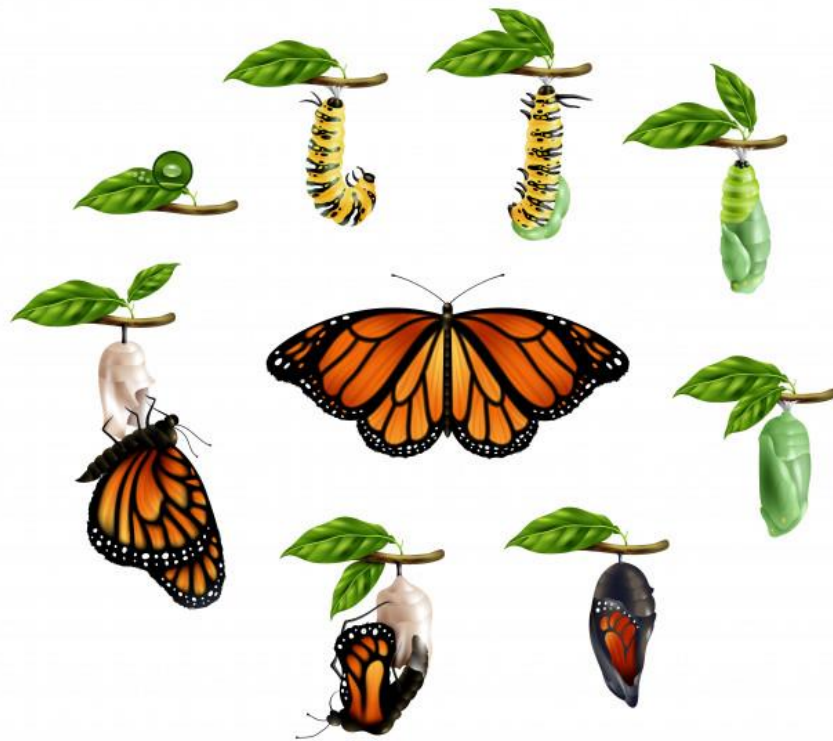


Primary Science: Butterfly Life Cycle



Butterflies have four stages.

1. The egg
2. The larva (caterpillar)
3. The pupa (chrysalis/cocoon)
4. The adult butterfly

Most adult butterflies only live for around 2-3 weeks. Butterflies come in different sizes and colours. Butterflies are one of the signs of spring.



Primary Science: Butterfly Life Cycle



Butterflies can lay hundreds of eggs, but many will not make it to become a butterfly. Only a few will survive because of predators. Butterfly eggs are very small and are usually found on a plant that has the nutrients for caterpillars to grow.



Tiny caterpillars hatch from eggs. The first thing they eat is their eggshell. Caterpillars are eating machines. They are able to eat massive amounts to increase their body mass.



Primary Science: Butterfly Life Cycle

The caterpillar stage is the most dangerous in the life cycle of the butterfly. They are prone to weather conditions, parasites, and predators. Their lack of mobility makes them an easy target.



Once the caterpillar has had enough to eat, they will get ready to pupate. They will make a chrysalis (cocoon) made from its own silk. It will attach itself at the base and make a mat around its body.



Primary Science: Butterfly Life Cycle

Caterpillars will stay in the chrysalis for around 1-2 weeks before emerging as a butterfly.



The wings of the butterfly are crumpled when it comes out. The butterfly will hang its wings down and begin to straighten them out by pumping them full of fluid. Then the butterfly must wait hours before the wings harden. Then it can fly away to begin the cycle again by finding a partner!



Primary Science: Butterfly Life Cycle

Answer the questions.

What are the four stages of a butterfly?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

How long do butterflies live?

What is the first stage of a butterfly?



Primary Science: Butterfly Life Cycle

Answer the questions.

How many eggs do butterflies lay and how many survive?

Where can you find the eggs?

What do caterpillars eat?



Primary Science: Butterfly Life Cycle

Answer the questions.

What is the pupa stage?

How long is the pupa stage?

What does a butterfly do once it emerges from its cocoon?

