

Butterflies are one of nature's most colorful creatures, and they go through a magical journey to become the beautiful insects we love to watch. This journey is called the life cycle of a butterfly, and it has four main parts.

First, the life cycle begins with a tiny egg. A butterfly mom lays her eggs on the leaves of plants. These eggs are very small, almost like a dot you might make with a pencil. Inside each egg is a baby butterfly, but it doesn't look like a butterfly yet. It's called a caterpillar.

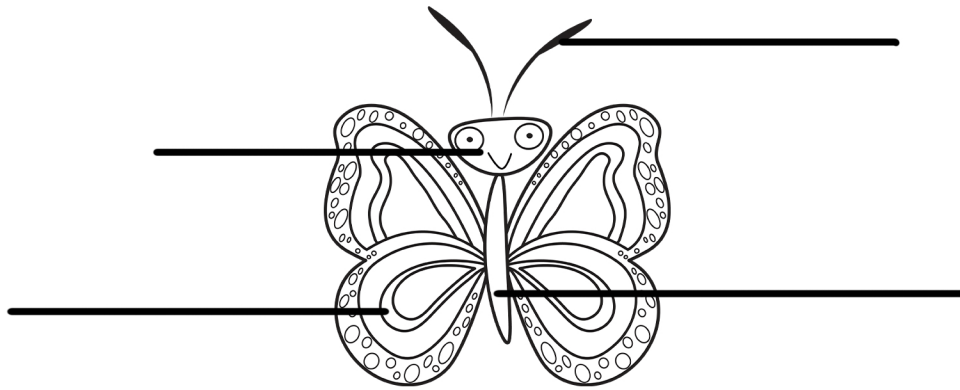
After a little while, the egg hatches, and out comes the caterpillar. This is the second part of the life cycle. Caterpillars are very hungry and start eating leaves right away. They eat and eat, growing bigger and sometimes changing colors or patterns. The caterpillar's job is to eat so it can grow into the next stage.

The third part is really cool. When the caterpillar is big enough, it forms a chrysalis, also known as a pupa. The chrysalis can be different colors, like green or brown, so it can hide from animals that might want to eat it. Inside the chrysalis, the caterpillar is changing. It might look quiet from the outside, but inside, the caterpillar is turning into a butterfly!

Finally, the last part of the life cycle is when the butterfly comes out of the chrysalis. At first, its wings are soft and wet. The butterfly waits for its wings to dry, and then it can start flying. The butterfly will look for flowers to drink nectar from, and eventually, it will lay eggs, starting the life cycle all over again.

Name: _____

Date: _____



Word Bank:

pencil

caterpillar

chrysalis

nectar

wing head antennae abdomen

What is the second step in the butterfly life cycle? 

How do caterpillars stay hidden from predators when in the chrysalis?

What do butterfly eggs on a leaf look like?

egg



hungry



patterns



butterfly



1. Caterpillars are only one color.

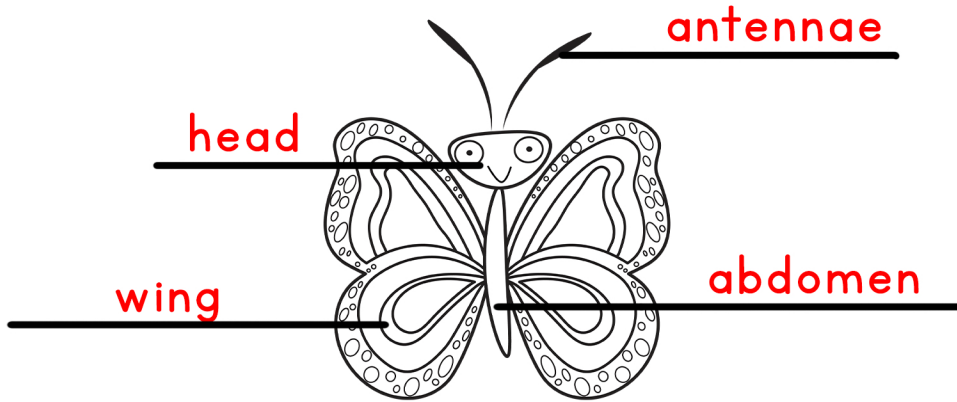
true

false

2. There are four parts in the butterfly life cycle.

true

false



Word Bank:

pencil

caterpillar

chrysalis

nectar

wing

head

antennae

abdomen

What is the second step in the butterfly life cycle?

Eggs hatch into caterpillars.

How do caterpillars stay hidden from predators when in the chrysalis?

Brown or green to camouflage into their surroundings.

What do butterfly eggs on a leaf look like?

Small dots made by a pencil.

egg



hungry



patterns



butterfly



1. Caterpillars are only one color.

true**false**

2. There are four parts in the butterfly life cycle.

true**false**