

BUTTERFLIES

Warm up



Do you recognize this creature?

Have you seen any butterflies? What were their colours?

What is this insect called in your mother tongue?

These are the body parts of a butterfly.



scales: butterflies have tiny bony plates on their wings, that give them their colour and patterns



predators: animals that naturally prey on others

metamorphosis: the process of a caterpillar transforming into a butterfly

specific: particular

chrysalis: A "chrysalis" is a protective casing formed by a caterpillar around its body during the pupa stage of metamorphosis



mandible: The term "mandible" describes the specialized mouth of a caterpillar that allows it to chew plant material



transformation: change

delicate: easily broken or damaged; here it is used to describe the scales covering butterfly wings that can rub off if touched

Butterflies

Butterflies are insects that are known for their beauty. They can be found almost everywhere in the world. Butterflies live on land, including in tropical regions and even in cold areas. They can be found near the sea and up in the mountains.

Although some butterflies may appear to have only 4 legs, they actually have 6 legs. They have four wings, with a forewing and hindwing on each side of their body. The wings are covered in tiny coloured scales that give them their patterns. These scales are delicate and can rub off if touched. Butterfly wings have various functions. They help the butterfly to fly and even hide among the flowers.

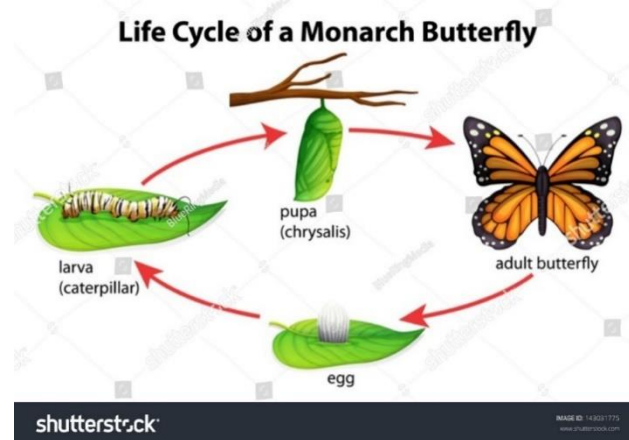
The lifespan of a butterfly can vary depending on the species. On average, most butterflies live for a few weeks to a few months. However, some species have much shorter lifespans, lasting only a few

days, while others can live for several months. The length of a butterfly's life is influenced by factors such as environmental conditions, availability of food, and the predators in their habitat.

Butterflies go through a specific life cycle known as metamorphosis, which consists of several distinct stages. The life cycle of a butterfly includes four main stages: egg, larva (caterpillar), pupa (chrysalis), and adult.

1. **Egg:** The life cycle of a butterfly begins with an egg. Female butterflies lay their eggs on specific plants, known as host plants, which will become food for the caterpillars that will come out of the eggs. Their eggs are usually tiny and often have unique shapes and patterns.

2.



3. **Larva (Caterpillar):** Once the egg hatches, a larva, commonly known as a caterpillar, emerges. The caterpillar's main goal during this stage is to eat and grow. Caterpillars have a specialized mouth called a mandible, which allows them to chew plant material. They go through several moulting stages, which is, shedding their old skin as they grow larger. Caterpillars often have distinct patterns and colours.
4. **Pupa (Chrysalis):** When the caterpillar is fully grown, it enters the pupa stage. It forms a protective casing called a chrysalis around its body. Inside the chrysalis, the caterpillar

undergoes a remarkable transformation called metamorphosis. During this stage, the caterpillar's tissues break down and reorganise to form the adult butterfly's body.

5. **Adult:** After some time, the adult butterfly emerges from the chrysalis. At first, its wings are small and crumpled, but they quickly expand and harden. The adult butterfly then begins its life as a fully formed insect. It will seek out food sources, and mates, and continue the life cycle by laying eggs.

Butterflies do not sting or carry venom. They are harmless to humans.

- A. Choose the most appropriate answer.
 1. How many legs do butterflies have?
 - a. 2
 - b. 4
 - c. 6
 - d. 8
 2. What is the purpose of the tiny coloured scales that cover a butterfly's wings?

- a. To breathe
 - b. To hide from predators
 - c. To produce sounds
 - d. To give them their patterns
3. What influences the length of a butterfly's life?
- a. The number of eggs it lays
 - b. Environmental conditions
 - c. The colour of its wings
 - d. The size of its body
4. What is the name of the specific life cycle that butterflies go through?
- a. Metamorphosis
 - b. Evolution
 - c. Hibernation
 - d. Adaptation
5. What is the first stage in the life cycle of a butterfly?
- a. Adult
 - b. Larva (Caterpillar)
 - c. Pupa (Chrysalis)
 - d. Egg

B. Tick the true statements.

1. The main goal of the caterpillar during the larva stage is to build a chrysalis
2. The protective casing around the caterpillar's body during the pupa stage is a cocoon.
3. When it first emerges from the chrysalis the butterfly's wings are small and crumpled.
4. Butterflies do no harm to humans.

C. Write short answers.

1. Where can we find butterflies?
2. How do the delicate scales on butterfly wings contribute to their overall appearance?
3. Describe the life cycle of a butterfly.

D. Some words have the same pronunciation but different spellings and meanings. They are called homophones.

Strike out the incorrect word in these sentences.

1. We have a (weak/week) to go before our exams begin.
2. (There/their) classroom is airy.

3. We find that (there/their) are many mistakes in this paper.
4. We (know/no) that the answers are all correct.
5. I wonder whether butterflies can (hear/here) us.

E. Choose words from the Vocabulary to complete these sentences.

1. _____ are animals that prey on other animals.
2. The caterpillar underwent a remarkable _____ to become a beautiful butterfly.
3. Fish have _____ on their bodies, like butterflies.
4. The remarkable _____ changes a caterpillar into a butterfly.
5. The wings of the butterfly are very _____ and colourful.
6. The caterpillar used its _____ to chew on the leaves of the host plant during its larva stage.

7. The _____ scales on the butterfly's wings give them their vibrant patterns and colours.
 8. The protective casing formed by a caterpillar is called a _____.
- F. Use words from 'Vocabulary' to make sentences of your own.