

LIFECYCLE OF A BUTTERFLY

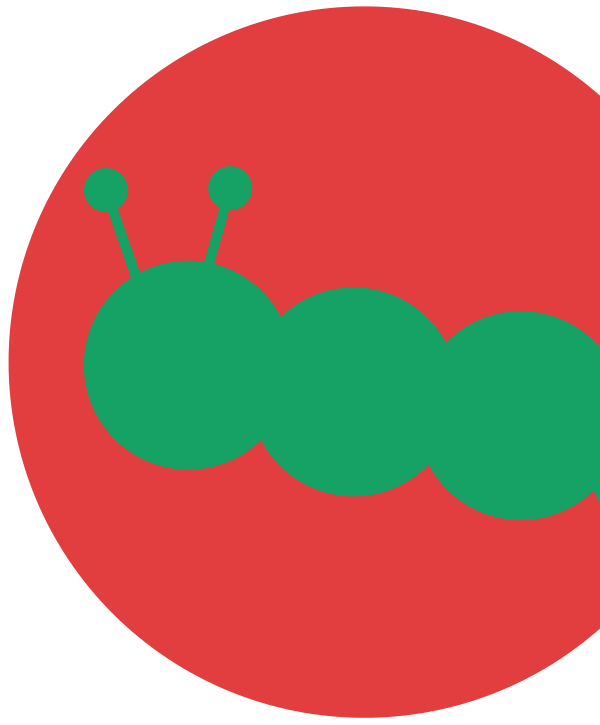


STAGE 1: BUTTERFLY EGGS

A female butterfly lays her eggs, usually on leaves or stems of plants. Inside these tiny eggs, caterpillars grow.

STAGE 2: CATERPILLAR

Once ready, the caterpillar leaves its egg. These little critters actually eat their way out of the egg and immediately start chomping on the leaves of the host plant. During this stage, they shed their skin four or five times. As the caterpillar grows, its skin becomes too tight and splits open, revealing a new, larger skin underneath.



STAGE 3: CHRYSALIS

Once fully grown, the caterpillar forms itself into a "pupa", or chrysalis, a kind of vessel in which the caterpillar changes into a butterfly. They usually do this on twigs or safe, hidden areas around the host plant.



STAGE 4: WINGED ADULT

Once the butterfly is ready to emerge, the case around the pupa splits open. The butterfly waits for its wings to dry, and pumps a liquid called hemolymph into them so that they become big and strong. Once fit for flight, the butterfly takes to the air in search for flowers to feed on!

