

Butterfly Anatomy and Life Cycle



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Fill in the blanks below using words from the word bank.

Word Bank:

metamorphosis insects eyes leaf	six flying adult butterfly	caterpillar egg chest skin
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Butterflies are beautiful, flying _____ that have large scaly wings. Like all insects, they have _____ jointed legs, 3 body parts, a pair of antennae, compound _____, and an exoskeleton. The three body parts are the head, thorax (the _____), and abdomen (the tail end).

The butterfly's body is covered by tiny sensory hairs. The four wings and the six legs of the butterfly are attached to the thorax. The thorax contains the muscles that make the legs and wings move.

Butterflies and moths undergo complete _____ in which they go through four different life stages.

- **Egg** - A _____ starts its life as an egg, often laid on a _____.
- **Larva** - The larva (_____) hatches from an _____ and eats leaves almost constantly. The caterpillar molts (loses its old _____) many times as it grows. The caterpillar will increase up to several thousand times in size before pupating.
- **Pupa** - It turns into a pupa (chrysalis); this is a resting stage.
- **Adult** - A beautiful, _____ adult emerges. This _____ will continue the cycle.

ANSWER KEY

Word Bank:

metamorphosis insects eyes leaf	six flying adult butterfly	caterpillar egg chest skin
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Butterflies are beautiful, flying ___INSECTS___ that have large scaly wings. Like all insects, they have ___SIX___ jointed legs, 3 body parts, a pair of antennae, compound ___EYES___, and an exoskeleton. The three body parts are the head, thorax (the ___CHEST___), and abdomen (the tail end).

The butterfly's body is covered by tiny sensory hairs. The four wings and the six legs of the butterfly are attached to the thorax. The thorax contains the muscles that make the legs and wings move.

Butterflies and moths undergo complete ___METAMORPHOSIS___ in which they go through four different life stages.

- **Egg** - A ___BUTTERFLY___ starts its life as an egg, often laid on a ___LEAF___.
- **Larva** - The larva (___CATERPILLAR___) hatches from an ___EGG___ and eats leaves almost constantly. The caterpillar molts (loses its old ___SKIN___) many times as it grows. The caterpillar will increase up to several thousand times in size before pupating.
- **Pupa** - It turns into a pupa (chrysalis); this is a resting stage.
- **Adult** - A beautiful, ___FLYING___ adult emerges. This ___ADULT___ will continue the cycle