

# The Life Cycle of a Butterfly



**A butterfly begins its life as a  
small white egg**



# After about 5 days the egg hatches into a small caterpillar

A caterpillar's first meal is its own egg shell!



Caterpillars eat a huge amount of leaves so this stage is sometimes called the eating stage!  
Caterpillars grow very quickly and have to shed their skins many times as they grow out of them.  
They then eat their skins as well!

# The caterpillar becomes a chrysalis



After a few weeks the caterpillar attaches itself to a twig and forms a hard outer shell called a chrysalis or pupa. There is no eating during this stage, this is the time where the caterpillar is transforming.

# The butterfly emerges from the chrysalis

An adult butterfly will only live for about 2 weeks.



The sun warms the butterfly's body and it is able to fly to different flowers and suck nectar using its long, curly tongue. Butterflies can not bite or chew.

# The female butterfly then lays more eggs!



Some butterflies can lay as many as 500 eggs!  
Butterfly eggs are different shapes and sizes.

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Egg



Caterpillar



Chrysalis or Pupa



Butterfly

