

AMAZING ANIMALS: BUTTERFLY



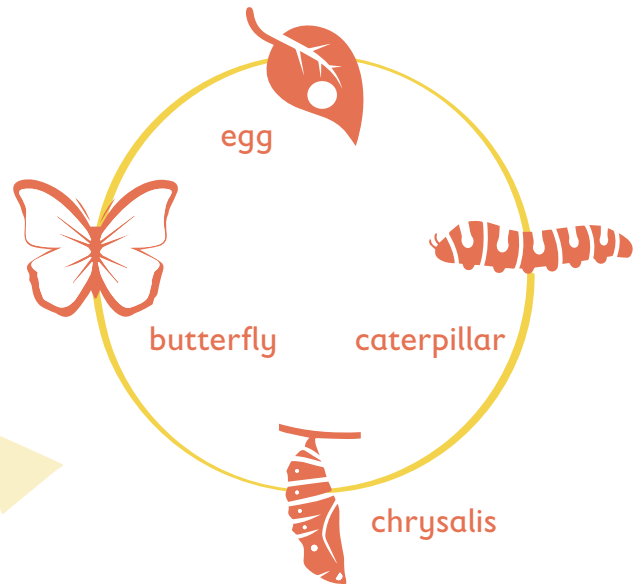
Butterflies are a type of **insect**.

Over their lifetime they will take three different shapes before they become fully grown butterflies.

First they are an **egg**, then a **caterpillar**, then a **chrysalis**, then an adult **butterfly**.

Scientists estimate that there are up to 15,000 different species of butterfly.

Antarctica is the only continent on which no species of butterfly has been found. Antarctica is the world's southernmost continent. It's very cold there!



Life cycle of a butterfly



Butterfly eggs on a leaf

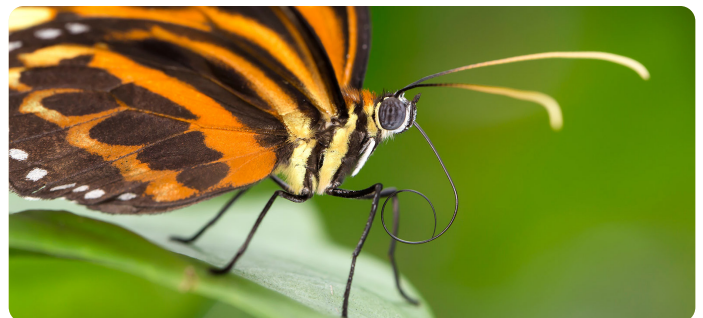


Chrysalis

Butterflies lay their eggs on leaves. The eggs stick to the leaves with a special glue.

Fully grown caterpillars hold onto a branch before shedding their skin. Underneath is a new, hard skin called a chrysalis.

Butterflies taste their food with their feet! They can stand on a leaf, and using their feet, can tell if their caterpillars would be able to eat it or not. This is how they choose the right place to lay their eggs.



Every year, monarch butterflies will travel over 4000 kilometres from Canada to Mexico, in central America.

Females will lay eggs, and the next generation will fly back to where their parents came from, completing the cycle.

Over 4000 km!





Banded peacock butterfly, India



Richmond birdwing butterfly, Australia



Question Mark butterfly, North America



Caterpillar of a Monarch butterfly

Discuss the answers to the following questions:

1. What do you find most amazing about butterflies? Why?
2. Which part of a butterfly's life would you most like to live? Give your reasons.
3. What do you think it feels like to be a caterpillar turning into a chrysalis, that turns into a butterfly?



Now write three facts that you have just read into your book. Then write how you feel about what you have learnt.