

Life Cycle of a Butterfly

There are few insects as beautiful as the butterfly. They come in all shapes, sizes and colors but surprisingly they were not born with those good looks. Instead they grow into their beauty. Learn more about the four stages of transformation, also known as metamorphosis, in the life cycle of the butterfly below. Use this new found knowledge to recreate each stage on the flip side of this sheet using color, pasta and a little imagination.

Egg Stage: The life of a butterfly starts when the adult female lays her eggs on a leaf. This leaf will serve as a food source to the caterpillar when it first emerges from the egg during the caterpillar stage. To find these tiny round eggs check the underside of leaves and break out your magnifying glass to get a closer look at the larva that moves inside them.



Caterpillar Stage: Hungry little caterpillars will emerge from the hatching eggs. At this stage they will spend most of their time eating and growing. A caterpillar can ingest a large leaf in just one day and will grow 100 times in size before its next transition.



Pupa Stage: This is the most dramatic transition of the insect's life cycle. Once the caterpillar is fully grown it will stop eating and form into a pupa, also called a chrysalis. From the outside it looks like the insect is resting but inside the pupa the caterpillar is rapidly transforming into a beautiful butterfly.



Adult Stage: This is the reproductive stage for the adult butterfly and their job is to mate and produce more eggs. The female's colorful wings help it to fly from one plant to the next to find the best nursery for her young. This is an important task because caterpillars are small and can not move far after they hatch. Most adult butterflies will only live one to two weeks which is just long enough to deposit their eggs and start the life cycle again.

Pasta Butterfly

With your new knowledge of the butterfly life cycle let's recreate those four stages below with the use of **colorful crayons, pencils or pens, glue and pasta** (included). Start by drawing the outline of your environment noted in each box then glue in the pasta that best represents the stage of your butterfly. For best results use small dabs of glue to adhere your pasta to the worksheet. Now let your imagination flow as you bring life to each step of your butterfly's cycle and finish off by adding some fun colors.

Egg Stage: Draw a leaf and add the pasta that best represents butterfly eggs.

Caterpillar Stage: Draw a different type of leaf and include the pasta that looks like a caterpillar

Pupa Stage: Draw a twig that a pupa can hang from. Which pasta looks like a pupa?

Adult Stage: Draw a flower and create an adult from the pasta that most looks like a butterfly.