

SCIENCE · GRADE 2

Life Cycle of a Butterfly

Egg → caterpillar → chrysalis → butterfly

The four stages

1

Stage 1 — Egg

Tiny eggs are laid on a leaf — usually by their mother.

Example: About the size of a pinhead.

2

Stage 2 — Caterpillar (larva)

Hatches and starts to eat. Grows fast, sheds skin several times.

Example: Some caterpillars eat 200× their birth weight.

3

Stage 3 — Chrysalis (pupa)

Attaches to a branch and forms a hard shell. Inside, the body changes completely.

Example: Stays in the chrysalis for 1–4 weeks.

4

Stage 4 — Butterfly (adult)

Climbs out, dries its wings, flies off to find food and mates.

Example: Adults often live 2–6 weeks.

Quick check

1. What is another name for the caterpillar stage?
2. What is metamorphosis?
3. Why does a caterpillar eat so much?
4. Order the stages: chrysalis, butterfly, egg, caterpillar.

