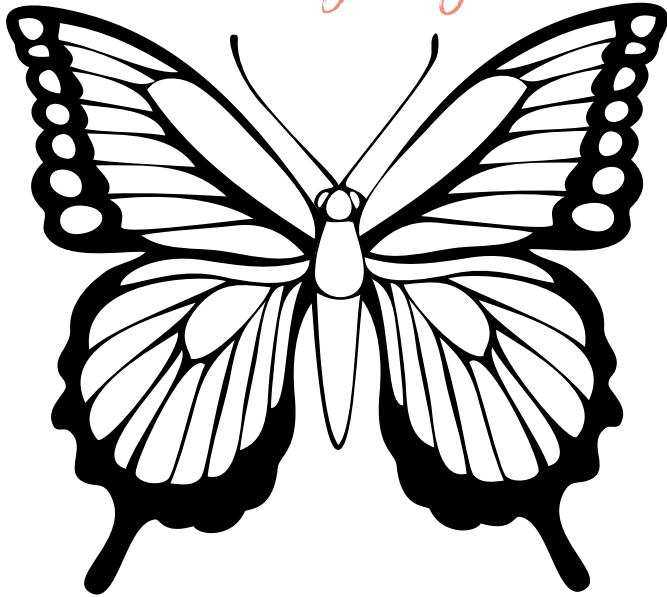


Color my wings!



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Butterfly Life Cycle

ACTIVITY PAGE

CATERPILLAR (LARVA)

The egg hatches into tiny larva which must molt (shed their skin) in order to grow. Most caterpillars do this four or five times for at least two weeks.

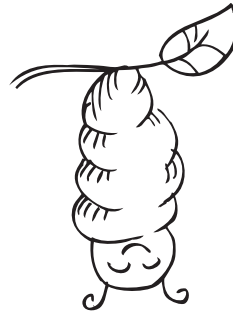
FUN FACT: Caterpillars can grow 100 times their size in this stage!



CHRYSLIS (PUPA)

A caterpillar finds a twig or other safe place to attach itself and forms a hard outer shell (a chrysalis). An amazing transformation happens inside as the caterpillar grows into a butterfly. This process takes a few weeks to a month or longer.

FUN FACT: Some species have a pupal stage that lasts for two years!



ADULT BUTTERFLY

When an adult butterfly emerges from its chrysalis its wings and body are still soft. It pumps blood into its newly formed wings and within a half hour, the exoskeleton hardens and the wings become rigid. They will fly, mate and reproduce. Most adult butterflies live for only one or two weeks.

FUN FACT: Some species hibernate during the winter and can live up to several months!



EGGS

Adult female butterflies lay eggs. Almost all eggs are yellow or green, the smallest being less than a millimeter! Some eggs hatch in as little as a few days - others take months.

