



# Lifecycle of a Butterfly

**Stage 1: the egg.** A butterfly begins as a tiny oval, round or cylindrical egg, depending on the species.

**Stage 2: the larvae.** When the egg hatches, a caterpillar or larva emerges. Caterpillars grow quickly and shed their skin several times during the growth stage. This process is called molting.

**Stage 3: the Chrysalis.** When a caterpillar reaches full size, it forms into a chrysalis or pupa. Inside, the caterpillar is beginning to undergo a transformation or metamorphosis.

**Stage 4: the Butterfly.** The butterfly emerges from the chrysalis with small, wet and wrinkly wings. After a rest period, the butterfly pumps blood into its wings and begins to fly.