

Eggs

A butterfly begins its life as an egg. Most female butterflies lay their eggs on the kind of plants their caterpillars will want to eat. Look under the leaves for tiny eggs!



Larva/Caterpillar

When the butterfly Larva (LAR-va)/Caterpillar hatches from the egg, it has an ENORMOUS appetite and it will eat the leaves of the plants until it is ready to become a Pupa. Look at the leaves in the garden to find a caterpillar.

The Life Cycle of a Butterfly

One of the most amazing transformations in nature happens as a butterfly grows. It completely changes the way it looks! This change is called metamorphosis (met-uh-MOR-fah-sis)

Pupa/Chrysalis

When the caterpillar reaches full size, it will find a protected resting place. Its soft, tender body slowly hardens on the outside to form a Chrysalis (KRIS-uh-lis). Inside, the pupa is changing to become a butterfly. Look under benches, branches and other hiding places for a chrysalis. They are green or brown, like a shriveled leaf.

Adult/Butterfly

When the adult butterfly is fully formed, the chrysalis cracks open. The butterfly frees itself from the hard shell and hangs upside down to dry its wings. Count how many different butterflies you see.

State Butterfly
Zebra Longwing Butterfly
Heliconia charitonia

