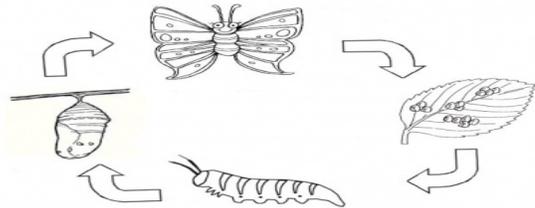


Name \_\_\_\_\_

## The Lifecycle of a Butterfly

**With Easter comes spring and new life begins. Learn about the life cycle of the butterfly and other fun facts about them. Answer the questions that follow.**

Butterflies start off as a tiny round egg. This is the first stage. The egg is attached to leaves, stems or other objects. From the egg comes the second stage which is the caterpillar or larva. They are long, worm-like insects. They often have interesting patterns or stripes and may have spine-like hairs. As it grows it sheds its skin four or more times to enclose its body. Once fully grown the third stage begins. This is known as the pupa stage. The caterpillar forms itself into a pupa or chrysalis which is a kind of vessel in which the caterpillar changes into a butterfly. They usually do this on twigs or hidden areas on plants. This stage may last a few weeks to several months depending on which kind of butterfly they are. The pupa has a protective case to protect it from predators and extreme weather conditions. Inside the pupa the tissue, limbs and organs of the caterpillar are transforming. The result? The fourth stage. A beautiful winged butterfly! Once the butterfly is ready to come out, the case around the pupa splits open. At first the wings are wet, soft and wrinkled against its body. The butterfly waits for its wings to dry and pumps a liquid called hemolymph into them so that they become big and strong. Once fit for flight, this brilliant bug then takes to the air in search for flowers to feed on and for other butterflies to make eggs with. And then the cycle starts all over! This whole process is called metamorphosis.



### Facts about Butterflies

- Butterflies can see red, green, and yellow.
- The top butterfly flight speed is 12 miles per hour.
- Monarch butterflies journey from the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico, a distance of about 2,000 miles, and return to the north again in the spring.
- Antarctica is the only continent on which no butterflies have been found.
- Many butterflies can taste with their feet to find out whether the leaf they sit on is good to lay eggs on.

### Questions

1. What are the four stages of metamorphosis? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What speed does the fastest butterfly fly? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What continent have butterflies not been found on? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What do many butterflies taste with? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What liquid do butterflies produce to help their wings become strong? \_\_\_\_\_