The Tale of a Butterfly

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Butterflies have a **complete life cycle**.

That means there are **separate stages** in a butterfly's life.
At each stage, the butterfly looks completely different and serves a different purpose in the life of the insect.
The life begins when an **adult female** butterfly lays an egg on a leaf. The egg is tiny and oval in shape and it sticks to the leaf. Many females produce between one hundred and two hundred eggs.
In several weeks, the egg **hatches** and out comes the **larva, or caterpillar**. The caterpillar is long and worm-like and often has interesting patterns and spine-like hairs on its body.
Caterpillars feed on leaves and spend most of their time searching for and eating food. This is called the feeding and growth stage.
As the caterpillar grows, it sheds its skin several times to enclose its rapidly growing body. Once it is fully grown, the caterpillar stops feeding and begins to look for a suitable place for pupation, often the underside of a leaf or other hidden location.
Next, the caterpillar forms a **pupa**, within which its old body parts are broken down and new adult butterfly parts are formed. The pupa is usually brown or green and **blends** well into the background.
In a couple of weeks, the adult butterfly breaks out from the pupa.

The adult is usually a large and colorful butterfly.
Often, the adult butterflies *migrate* to other regions to start a new home and continue its life cycle.
The Life Cycle of a Butterfly
KEY WORDS

**Egg** - A butterfly starts its life as an egg.

**Larva** - The larva (caterpillar) hatches from an egg and eats leaves or flowers almost constantly. The caterpillar molts (loses its old skin) many times as it grows.

**Pupa** - It turns into a pupa (chrysalis); this is a resting stage.

**Adult** - A beautiful, flying adult emerges. There is no growth during this stage. This adult will continue the cycle and reproduce.

**Migrate**: Move in search of a new home
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The Tale of a Butterfly
(English)

Find out the life cycle of a butterfly from an egg to an adult

This is a Level 2 book for children who recognize familiar words and can read new words with help.

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