



The Tale of a Butterfly

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Level 2

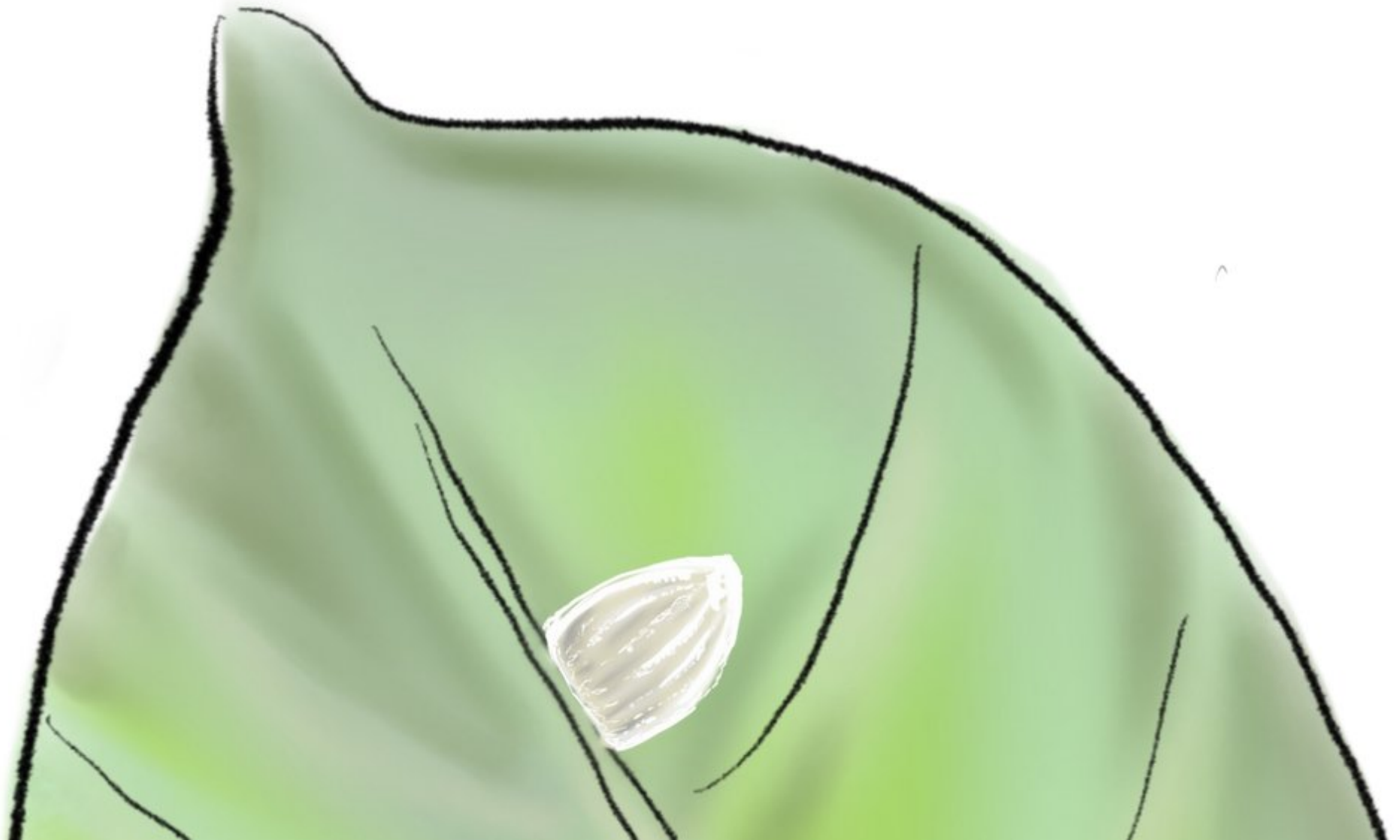


Butterflies have a **complete life cycle**.

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.



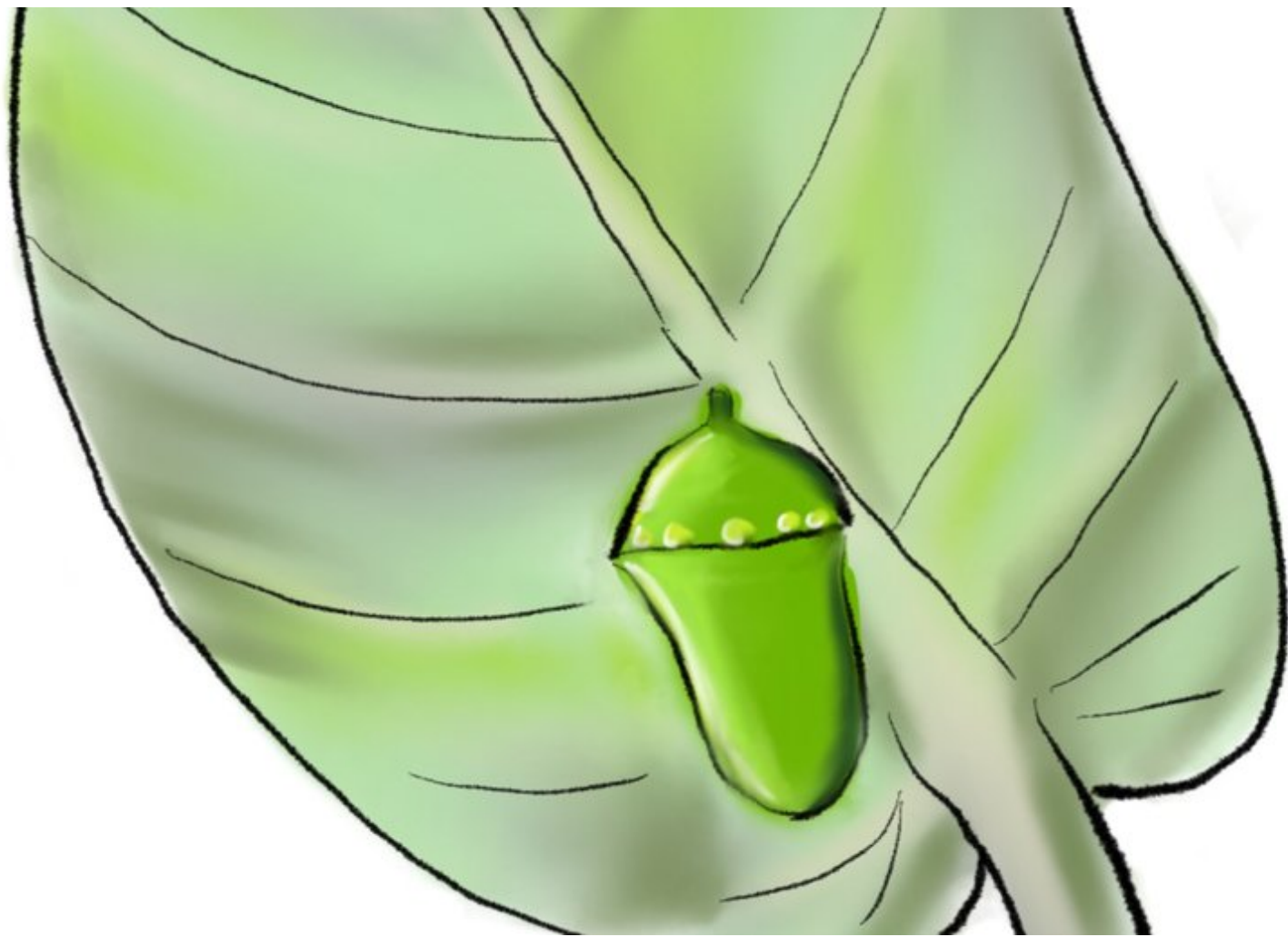
In several weeks, the egg **hatches** and out comes the **larva, or caterpillar**. The caterpillar is long and worm-like and often has interesting patterns and spine-like hairs on its body.



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.

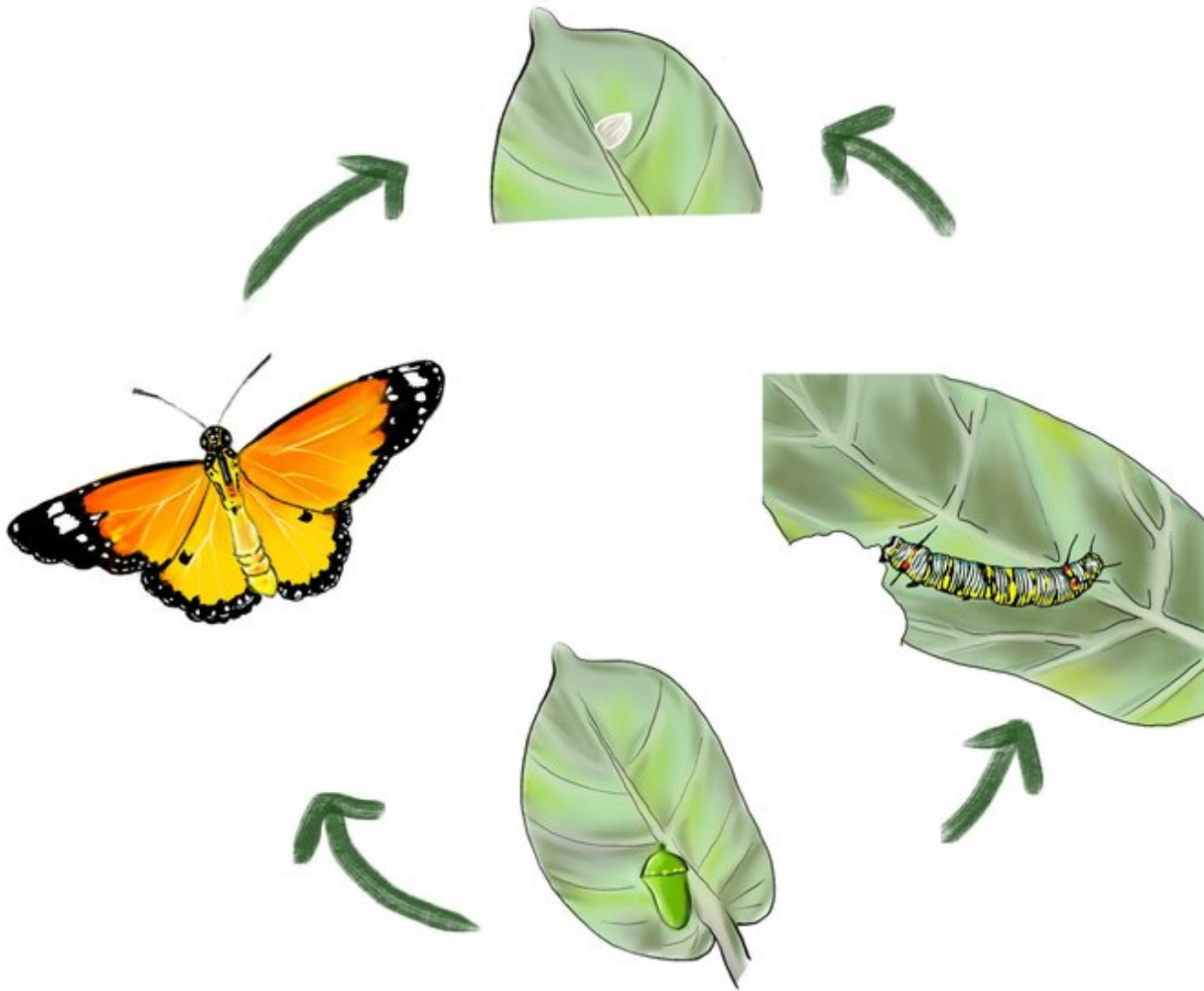


In a couple of weeks, the adult butterfly breaks out from the pupa.

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

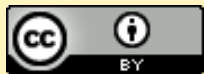
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The Tale of a Butterfly

(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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