

BUTTERFLY SCIENCE



9 Science Activities for PreK, K & 1-3



INTERNATIONAL  PAPER

CelebratePlanetEarth.org

CONTENTS

How to Raise Your Butterflies	3
Butterfly Life Cycle Song	4
Changing Butterfly Dance	5
What Is a Caterpillar?	6
Caterpillar & Pupa Timelines	8-12
Day-by-Day Bar Chart	13
Is a Butterfly an Insect?	14
Butterfly Life Cycle Flipchart	15-17
Butterfly Body Parts	18-19
Butterfly Coloring	20



**Celebrate Planet Earth grows children
who love & protect the Earth.**

Since 1989, more than 15 million children have delighted in raising butterflies, growing sunflowers, learning about the natural world & supporting conservation. Our work empowers students to initiate environmentally responsible actions in school & at home.

CelebratePlanetEarth.org

How to Raise Your Butterflies

Getting Started

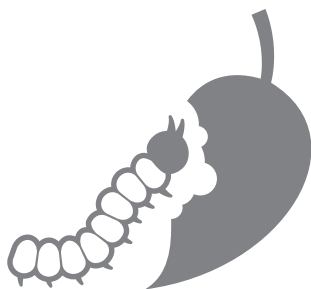
Congratulations on receiving your cup of painted lady caterpillars! The caterpillars will be 1/4 to 1/2 inch long. Allow them 48 hours to become active. They will start growing within a few days.

Always remember to handle the cup of caterpillars **GENTLY**. Do not remove the plastic lid. It has airholes. Oxygen, plus the food on the bottom of the cup, is all the caterpillars need right now.

Place your cup of caterpillars in a warm spot, out of direct sunlight.

While growing, caterpillars may suspend themselves in gray-white webbing, which is a good sign. The webbing helps protect the caterpillars.

ON THE FIRST DAY: *Using a permanent marker, draw one caterpillar's size & shape on the outside of the plastic cup. When your caterpillars have grown to full size, you'll be amazed to see how small they once were!*



Chrysalis to Butterfly

When caterpillars are fully grown, they will crawl to the top of the cup, hang upside down, & change themselves into chrysalises.

Once they've all changed, wait two days & then transfer to their new butterfly house. Gently remove the plastic lid from their cup. Peel back the paper layer & lift it away from the cup. Your chrysalises should stay attached to the paper & hang freely. If one detaches from the paper, place it on the floor of your butterfly house, next to a wall.

Using a piece of tape, hang the paper layer on a wall inside the butterfly house.

Butterflies will emerge from chrysalises in 7 to 10 days. It will take them an hour or two to dry their wings. Once they begin flying around the butterfly house, they are ready to be released.

You may keep your butterflies in their house for up to a week by providing them with food. Cut an orange in half & place it on the floor of the butterfly house, flesh-side up. OR, using a small, shallow bowl, dissolve a teaspoon of sugar in a 1/2 cup of water. Place a paper towel over the bowl so that it touches & wicks up the sugar water. Butterflies can land on the paper & drink without getting their wings wet.

Time to release your butterflies outside! Be sure temperatures are reaching at least 55°F/13°C during the day. The butterflies will help pollinate trees, flowers & vegetables. They will also create eggs for a new generation of butterflies.



BUTTERFLY SCIENCE



Butterfly Life Cycle Song

For All the Butterflies

*Sing to the tune of "Brother John"
or "Frère Jacques"*

I'm a flower, I'm a flower
Roots below, roots below
Soil and rain and sunshine
Soil and rain and sunshine
Watch me grow!
Watch me grow!

I'm an egg, I'm an egg
On a little leaf, on a little leaf
Soon I'll be a caterpillar
Soon I'll be a caterpillar
Watch me eat!
Watch me eat!

I'm a caterpillar,
I'm a caterpillar
You're one too, you're one too
Soon we'll both be butterflies
Soon we'll both be butterflies
Something new!
Something new!

I'm a chrysalis, I'm a chrysalis
Warm and dry, warm and dry
Changing from the inside
Changing from the inside
Into a butterfly!
Into a butterfly!

I'm a butterfly, I'm a butterfly
Flying all around,
flying all around
Looking for a flower
Looking for a flower
Searching up and down.
Searching up and down.

I'm a flower, I'm a flower
Open to the sky,
open to the sky
I have lots of nectar
I have lots of nectar
For all the butterflies.
For all the butterflies.

BUTTERFLY SCIENCE



Changing Butterfly Dance

Materials: Instrumental music and audio system

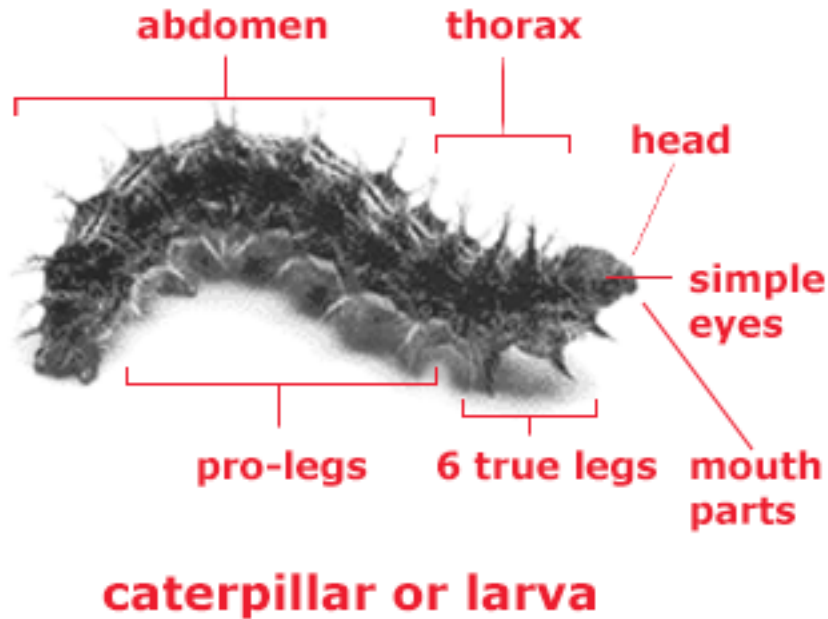
Simple Instructions: Guide students through an improvisational dance. Have students sit on the floor in a circle and ask them to imagine changing butterflies—how eggs hatch caterpillars, caterpillars crawl, eat and grow, then become a pupa and finally emerge as a butterfly with wings. Show them how to curl up as eggs, then push out of the egg and wiggle like a growing caterpillar, then wrap themselves tight into a pupa and then spread arms and open hands as butterflies emerge. Lead them through the process several times. Then let them try it on their own with music.

Use your dance often as a wake-up exercise or a break from study, allowing students to move and get the wiggles out.



BUTTERFLY SCIENCE

What Is a Caterpillar? Body Parts



Larva—the second stage of metamorphosis, another term for caterpillar

Head—the head includes a brain, a mouth, 2 antenna and 12 eyes called ocelli

Thorax—the thorax is the midsection where the legs are attached

Abdomen—the abdomen contains the heart, digestive system and other organs

True Legs—all insects have 6 true legs with tiny claws attached to the thorax

Pro-legs—located on the abdomen, pro-legs help the caterpillar move and climb

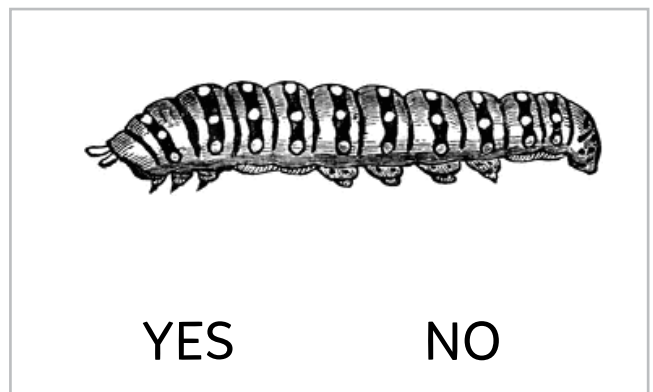
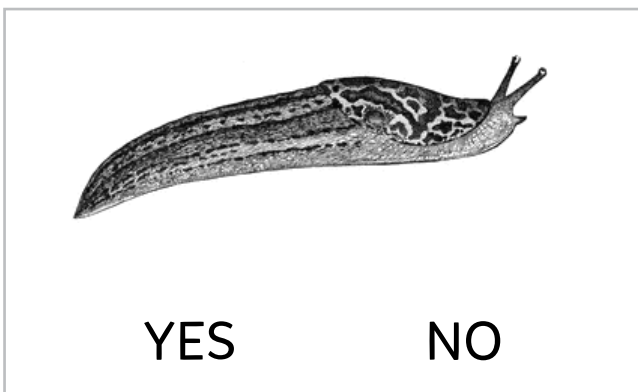
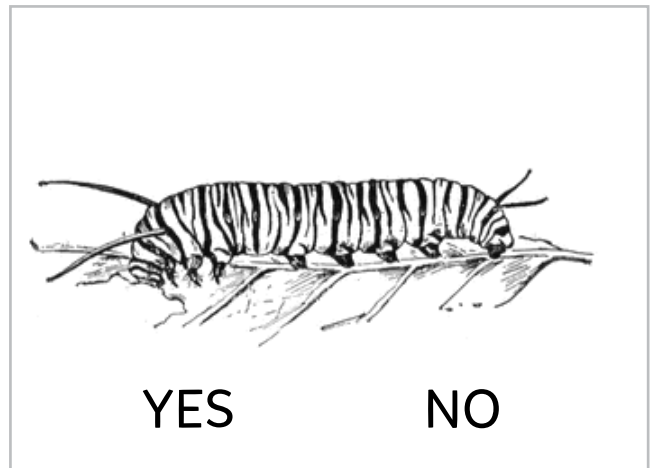
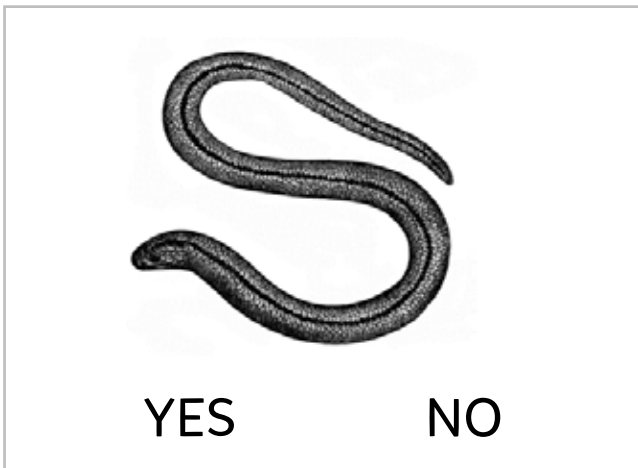
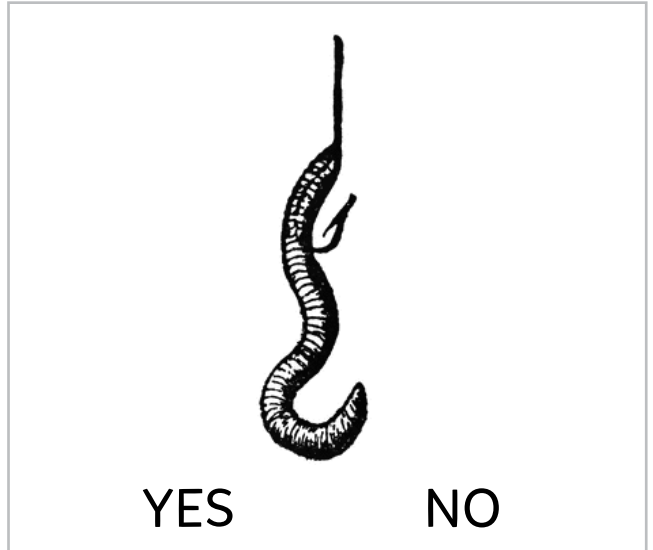
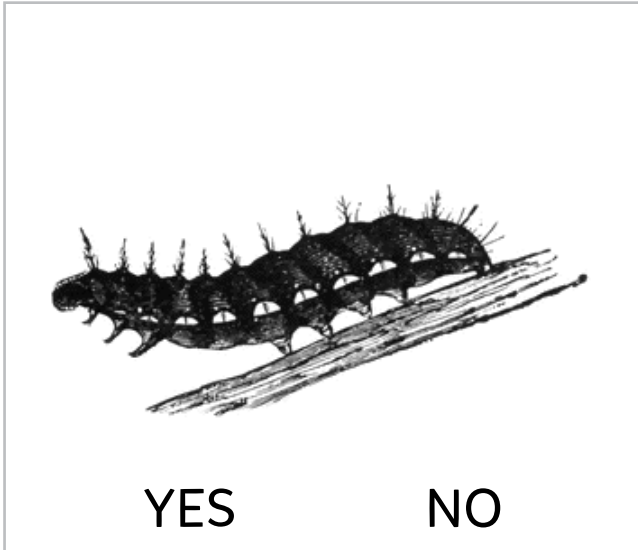
Mouth parts—on front of the head, a caterpillar has mouth parts to tear leaves and grind for food

Simple eyes—a caterpillar has 12 simple eyes, 6 on each side of its head, that show light and dark

What Is a Caterpillar?

Name _____

Look closely at the pictures below. Circle **Yes** below if it is a picture of a caterpillar.
Circle **No** if the picture is not a caterpillar.



BUTTERFLY SCIENCE



Observe, Predict & Record: Caterpillar & Pupa Timelines

Overview

In spring, many classrooms order a cup of live painted lady caterpillars to continue hands-on discovery in this life science unit. As living creatures, the painted lady butterfly is a reliable and hardy insect for study during the warm months, but it cannot be raised successfully during the cold months.

Having live caterpillars is a wonderful opportunity to encourage the children to observe closely and ask lots and lots of questions.

Over approximately 21 days the 3-5 live caterpillars will eat prepared food in the bottom of the cup, and when ready they will form pupas attached to paper that covers the top of the cup. After they emerge as adult butterflies, it is delightful to observe them for a few days and then release them into the wild on a sunny day. Butterflies are solar-powered. They will find flowers for nectar, pollinate the flowers as they go from one to another and lay eggs on their preferred host plants.

Timelines

Two timelines, one for the caterpillar stage and one for the pupa stage, are included to help the students look closely, make predictions and then record what they have learned about the organism.

Make 2-sided copies of both timelines. Demonstrate for your students how to fold each timeline in half lengthwise, then show them how to cut the paper halfway on the two dotted lines. This makes a flipchart for the students to complete step-by-step.

Discuss with your students what it means to make a prediction. Then use the Day-by-Day Bar Chart to confirm what you have learned about the number of days the organism is a stage, then compare your predictions.

Caterpillar Timeline

DAY _____

I
SEE

I
PREDICT

I
LEARN



Name _____

Caterpillar Timeline

**A
CATERPILLAR.**

**I predict that
my caterpillar
will grow to
2 inches in
_____ days.**

**I learned that
in _____ days
my caterpillar
grew to 2 inches.**

**This is how
my caterpillar looks.**

**I predict the
caterpillar will look
like this.**

**I learned the
caterpillar looks
like this.**

I
SEE

I
PREDICT

I
LEARN



**A
PUPA.**

**I predict that
a butterfly will
emerge in
____ days.**

**I learned that
in ____ days
a butterfly
emerged.**

**This is how
my pupa looks.**

**I predict the
butterfly will look
like this.**

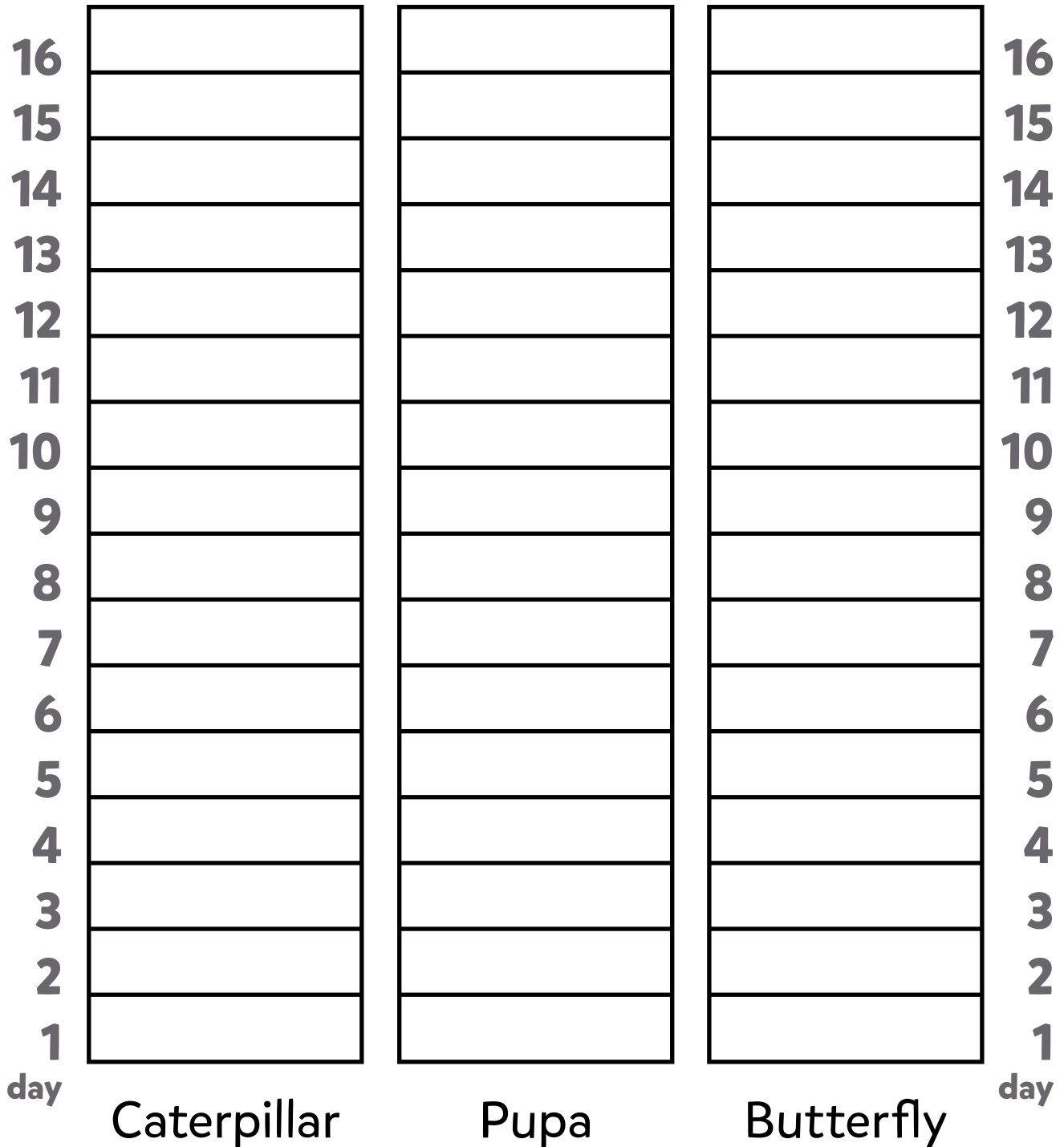
**I learned the
butterfly looks
like this.**

Butterfly Day-by-Day Chart

Name _____

What Is It Today?

Did I observe a caterpillar today? Is it a pupa? Or a butterfly? Fill in one rectangle each day on the bar chart. On the day that you release your butterflies, write the word FLY in the rectangle. Count and compare the number of days the organism was a caterpillar, pupa and butterfly.



BUTTERFLY SCIENCE

Is A Butterfly An Insect?

Color these pictures, cut along the heavy black line, then fold your paper on the dotted lines. Look! You've made your own little book about butterflies. Practice reading it to your friends!

An insect also has...

two eyes...
two antennae...
six legs.

An insect body has three parts...

a head...
a thorax...
an abdomen.

And most insects have wings

A Butterfly IS An Insect!

Is A Butterfly An Insect?



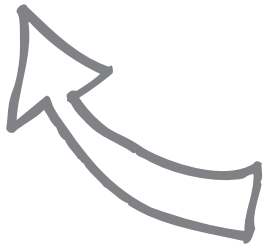
BUTTERFLY SCIENCE

Butterfly Life Cycle



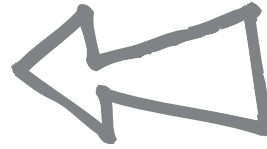
Cut out the four pictures.
Paste the pictures inside the flip chart of a butterfly life cycle.





**PUPAS
CHANGE**

**CATERPILLARS
GROW**



Name _____

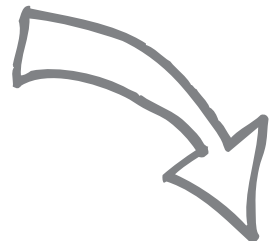


INTERNATIONAL  PAPER

**BUTTERFLIES
FLUTTER**



**EGGS
HATCH**



**A butterfly flutters
& lays eggs for
_____ days.**

**An egg
hatches in
_____ days.**

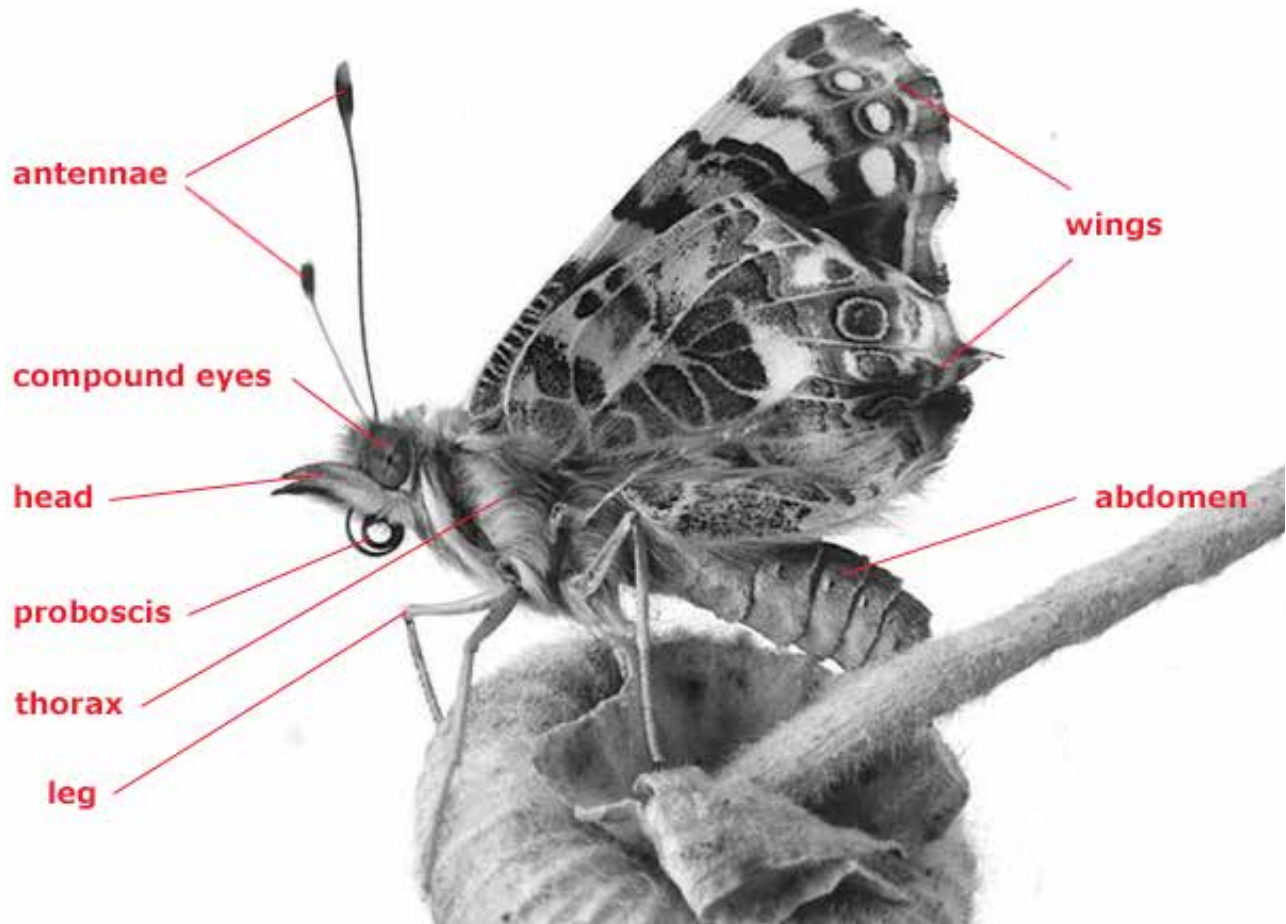


**A pupa
changes for
_____ days.**

**A caterpillar
grows for
_____ days.**

BUTTERFLY SCIENCE

Butterfly Body Parts



Abdomen—the hind part of the butterfly includes the stomach, heart and other organs

Antennae—on the butterfly's head, used to taste the air and help with balance

Compound eyes—thousands of tiny lenses help the butterfly see in all directions

Head—the head includes the proboscis, 2 antennae and 2 compound eyes

Leg—the butterfly has 6 legs, in 3 pairs, attached to its thorax

Proboscis—the butterfly tongue, which works like a drinking straw

Thorax—the midsection of the butterfly with 3 pairs of legs & 2 pairs of wings

Wings—2 pairs of wings on the thorax allow the butterfly to fly

Butterfly Anatomy

Name _____

Can you match the words on this page to the correct body parts on the butterfly?
All you have to do is - 1. Write the correct number inside each circle, and
2. Fill in the blank below each picture.

- 1 wings 2 antenna 3 head**
4 thorax 5 abdomen 6 leg



