

Life Cycle of a Bee

Like butterflies, honey bees also have a life cycle. Compare the bee and butterfly life cycles. How are they the same? How are they different?

The Queen bee lays an egg in a honeycomb cell.

Worker bees will feed the larva that hatches.

When the larva is big enough, the workers will cap its cell with wax. The larva spins a cocoon.

The larva becomes a pupa and continues to grow.

When the pupa becomes an adult it will emerge from its cell and join the rest of the adult bees.

Using what you've learned from this brochure, circle the answers to these questions.

1. Which insect lays eggs?
(a) Bees (b) Butterflies (c) Both
2. Which larva has to find food on its own once it hatches?
(a) Bees (b) Butterflies
3. Does the bee larva have to be fed by adult bees?
(a) Yes (b) No
4. What number in the life cycle is the pupa stage?
(a) 1st (b) 2nd (c) 3rd (d) 4th

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Learn about Life Cycles



Just like humans grow from babies to adults, insects also go through life stages. Use this brochure to learn about life cycles and metamorphosis as you observe a caterpillar change into a butterfly.

Metamorphosis

Metamorphosis is a series of physical changes that some animals go through as they grow into adults. For insects, there are four stages of metamorphosis: egg, larva, pupa, and adult.

Caterpillars (Larva)

Butterfly eggs hatch into larvae called caterpillars. They are born very small, but will continuously eat and grow. They reach full size in about two weeks.

Butterfly (Adult)

The butterfly emerges from the chrysalis looking very different from a caterpillar. It now has wings, and will drink nectar instead of eating leaves. The adult butterflies will then look for a mate and lay more eggs to complete the life cycle.

Eggs

Butterflies lay their eggs on the underside of leaves, usually leaves that they prefer in their diet.

Chrysalis (Pupa)

Once it has grown large enough, the caterpillar will form a chrysalis around its body, and prepare to transform into an adult butterfly.

Butterfly Observation Worksheet

Visit a butterfly garden, or look for plants that attract butterflies, and circle the pictures below that most represent what you see. Write the date and take notes on

what you observe. Whether you find some larvae, a pupa, or adult butterflies, write down how they look. Return to this spot every few days to look for any changes.

Observation Questions

Day 1	___ / ___ / ___					
Day 2	___ / ___ / ___					
Day 3	___ / ___ / ___					
Day 4	___ / ___ / ___					
Day 5	___ / ___ / ___					
Day 6	___ / ___ / ___					
Day 7	___ / ___ / ___					

Look under the leaves. Did you find any eggs?	
How many caterpillars did you observe?	
Did you see caterpillars that were different sizes?	
Did you see a caterpillar form a chrysalis?	
Did you see a butterfly emerge from a chrysalis?	
How many butterflies did you observe?	