

# The Life Cycle of Moths and Butterflies

Cycle 21 Decodable Reader



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Do you think butterflies and  
moths are animals or insects?  
You're right! Butterflies and  
moths are both insects.

Butterflies and moths are similar to each other. They both have wings with pretty patterns. They can both fly. And they both have four stages of life.

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The first stage is the egg. A mother butterfly or moth lays an egg on a leaf, a stem, or on another object.

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The second stage is the larva. This is also called a caterpillar. A caterpillar is sort of like a worm with legs. It eats a lot and grows very quickly.

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The third stage is the pupa. While inside the pupa, the caterpillar begins to transform into a butterfly or moth.

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The adult stage is the last stage. The caterpillar has turned into an adult butterfly or moth. The adult has wings. The wings usually have a pretty pattern on them. The adult is able to mate and lay eggs.

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Isn't this process amazing?  
Can you think of any other insects that have a life cycle that is similar to the moth and the butterfly?

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