

Engagement Text:

“The Life Cycle of Moths and Butterflies”

Butterflies and moths are insects. They are called “advanced insects” because they have a complete life cycle. This means that each of the four stages of their life cycle looks completely different and serves a different purpose in the insect’s life.

The Four Stages

1. Egg

The first stage is the egg stage. A female butterfly or moth lays an egg, usually attached to a leaf or stem.

2. Larva

A caterpillar, or larva, hatches out of the egg. A caterpillar is a worm-like creature that has legs. A caterpillar usually has some sort of interesting pattern on its body and sometimes has small hairs. This stage is when the most frequent feeding and most rapid growth occur. The larva sheds its skin several times to allow for the growth.

3. Pupa

The chrysalis, or pupa, stage is when the real transformation begins. During this stage, the caterpillar rests and forms a brown or green covering over its body. The structure of the caterpillar breaks down and begins to take the form of an adult insect while it is inside the chrysalis.

4. Adult

The imago, or adult, stage is the last stage. A beautiful butterfly or moth emerges from the pupa. During this stage, the insect is most mobile and can mate and lay eggs. Adult butterflies and moths may also migrate.