Name: _____ Date: _____

A Butterfly's Four Stages

Circle group

A butterfly does not start as a butterfly. It changes as it grows. It has four stages.

First, a butterfly lays a tiny egg on a leaf. Next, a caterpillar comes out of the egg. The caterpillar eats leaves all day. It gets big.

Then the caterpillar hangs from a twig. It makes a hard shell. This is the chrysalis. The caterpillar seems to rest, but its body is changing inside.

Soon the shell opens. A butterfly crawls out. Its wings are wet and soft. It waits for them to dry. Then it flies off to sip nectar from flowers.

Questions

1. Where does a butterfly lay her egg?

_____

_____

2. What does the caterpillar do all day?

_____

_____

3. What is the hard shell called?

_____

_____

4. What does the new butterfly do before it flies?

_____

_____

5. Why does a caterpillar eat so many leaves?

_____

_____

Words to know

caterpillar: the young, wormlike stage of a butterfly
chrysalis: the hard shell where a caterpillar changes
nectar: the sweet juice inside flowers

stage: one step in a long change

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

A Butterfly's Four Stages

Triangle group

A butterfly does not start out looking like a butterfly. It changes a lot as it grows. It has four stages.

First, a mother butterfly lays a tiny egg on a leaf. Next, a caterpillar hatches from the egg. The caterpillar eats leaves all day, and it grows bigger and bigger.

Then the caterpillar hangs from a twig and forms a hard shell. This stage is called the chrysalis. The caterpillar looks like it is resting, but inside the shell its body is changing.

After a while, the shell opens. A butterfly crawls out. Its wings are soft and wet at first. It waits for them to dry. Then it flies away to sip sweet nectar from flowers.

Questions

1. Where does a mother butterfly lay her egg?

_____

_____

2. What does the caterpillar do all day?

_____

_____

3. What is the hard shell stage called?

_____

_____

4. What does the new butterfly do before it flies?

_____

_____

5. Why does a caterpillar need to eat so many leaves?

_____

_____

Words to know

caterpillar: the young, wormlike stage of a butterfly
chrysalis: the hard shell where a caterpillar changes
hatches: comes out of an egg
nectar: the sweet juice inside flowers
stage: one step in a long change

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

A Butterfly's Four Stages

Square group

A butterfly does not begin its life looking like a butterfly. Instead, it goes through remarkable changes as it grows, and there are four separate stages.

In the first stage, a mother butterfly lays a tiny egg on a leaf. Before long, a caterpillar hatches from the egg. For the next few weeks, the caterpillar munches leaves all day, and it grows bigger and bigger.

Then the caterpillar attaches itself to a twig and forms a hard shell, which is called the chrysalis. From the outside, the caterpillar seems to be resting, yet inside the shell its body is slowly changing into something new.

Eventually the shell splits open, and a butterfly crawls out. Its wings are soft and wet at first, so it must wait patiently while they dry. Only then does it fly away to sip sweet nectar from flowers.

Questions

1. Where does a mother butterfly lay her tiny egg?

_____

_____

2. What does the caterpillar spend its days doing?

_____

_____

3. What name is given to the hard shell stage?

_____

_____

4. Why must the new butterfly wait before flying?

_____

_____

5. Why does a caterpillar need to eat so many leaves before it forms a shell?

_____

_____

Words to know

caterpillar: the young, wormlike stage of a butterfly
chrysalis: the hard shell where a caterpillar changes
hatches: comes out of an egg
nectar: the sweet juice inside flowers
stage: one step in a long change

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: A Butterfly's Four Stages

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: A Butterfly's Four Stages

Easier · 100 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.3

1. On a leaf.
2. It eats leaves and gets big.
3. The chrysalis.
4. It waits for its wet wings to dry.
5. It needs food to grow big before it changes.

Triangle: A Butterfly's Four Stages

This passage · 118 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.5

1. On a leaf.
2. It eats leaves and grows bigger.
3. The chrysalis.
4. It waits for its soft, wet wings to dry.
5. It needs food to grow bigger before it changes into a butterfly.

Square: A Butterfly's Four Stages

Harder · 142 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 7

1. On a leaf.
2. Munching leaves and growing bigger.
3. The chrysalis.
4. Its wings are soft and wet and have to dry first.
5. It needs food to grow bigger and to get ready for the changes that come next.