



OBSERVING THE LIFE CYCLE OF A BUTTERFLY

Using a Butterfly Garden Kit

In this experiment, you will observe the changes as a butterfly grows from an egg to an adult.



Name: _____ Date Started: _____ Date Completed: _____

MATERIALS

- Butterfly Garden Kit (with caterpillars or eggs)
- Butterfly habitat (enclosure)
- Caterpillar food (if provided)
- Observation journal or notebook
- Pencil
- Magnifying glass (optional)
- Camera or smartphone (optional)



SAFETY FIRST

- Handle the habitat gently. Do not shake or tip it.
- Do not open the habitat until the butterflies are ready to be released.
- Wash your hands before and after handling the habitat or supplies.
- Keep the habitat out of direct sunlight, hot cars, and extreme temperatures.



WHAT YOU WILL OBSERVE

You will observe the four stages of a butterfly's life cycle:

1. Egg



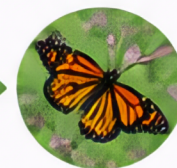
2. Caterpillar



3. Chrysalis



4. Adult Butterfly



Each stage will look different. Use this sheet to record your observations!

PROCEDURE

1. Set up the habitat in a safe place, away from direct sunlight and drafts.
2. If you received caterpillars, provide food as directed in your kit instructions.
3. Observe the caterpillars (or eggs) daily.
4. Record your observations in the table below.
5. When the caterpillars form chrysalises, continue to observe. Do not disturb.
6. When the butterflies emerge and their wings are dry, release them outside in a safe, flower-filled area.

OBSERVATION LOG

DATE	STAGE (Egg, Caterpillar, Chrysalis, Adult)	WHAT I OBSERVED (Size, Color, Behavior, Changes)	SKETCH (Draw what you see)	NOTES / QUESTIONS

REFLECTION

1. What was your favorite part of observing the butterfly life cycle? _____
2. What did you learn that surprised you? _____
3. How did each stage change? _____



SCIENCE TIP: Butterflies help flowers grow by pollinating them. By releasing your butterflies, you are helping nature! Thank you for being a good steward of the environment.

