



Observing Insect Metamorphosis

with Caterpillars and Pupae

Name: _____

Date: _____

Observer(s): _____



OBJECTIVE

To observe and record the changes that occur as caterpillars transform into pupae and then into adult insects.



MATERIALS

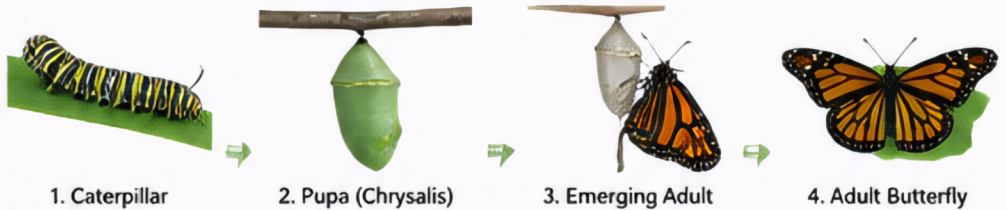
- Live caterpillars (from a kit or found on host plants)
- Enclosure or habitat container with lid and ventilation
- Paper towels or tissue
- Fresh leaves or caterpillar food
- Small cup or container (for pupation if needed)
- Magnifying glass
- Observation journal or printouts
- Pencil
- Camera or phone (optional)



SAFETY & CARE

- Handle caterpillars gently.
- Keep the habitat clean and in a safe, quiet place.
- Provide fresh food daily.
- Do not disturb the pupa.
- Wash hands before and after handling the habitat.

THE LIFE CYCLE OF A BUTTERFLY (EXAMPLE)



BACKGROUND

Many insects undergo complete metamorphosis. This means they go through four main stages: egg, caterpillar (larva), pupa (chrysalis), and adult. During metamorphosis, the insect's body changes completely.

PROCEDURE

1. Set up the habitat for your caterpillars. Make sure it has food, ventilation, and a clean surface.
2. Observe the caterpillars daily. Record their behavior, size, and any changes.
3. When a caterpillar forms a pupa (chrysalis), note the date and location in the habitat.
4. Observe the pupa daily. Do not disturb it.
5. When the adult insect emerges, observe its behavior. Allow its wings to dry completely before release (if outdoors).
6. Record your observations in the table below.

OBSERVATION LOG

Date	Stage (Caterpillar / Pupa / Emerging Adult / Adult)	What I Observed (Describe size, color, behavior, changes, etc.)	Sketch or Photo (Draw or attach a picture)

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What changes did you observe during metamorphosis?

2. What was the most amazing part of the process?

3. What did you learn about insects from this experience?

4. If you could do this experiment again, what would you do differently?

DRAW THE LIFE CYCLE

Draw the 4 stages of the insect life cycle you observed.



TIP: Patience is key! Metamorphosis takes time. Keep observing and enjoy the journey.

