



wildlife watch

www.wildlifewatch.org.uk

Parts of a caterpillar

Caterpillars have six legs attached to their thorax that let them move around. They also have something called **prolegs** on their abdomen. These prolegs end in small, hook-like suction cups.

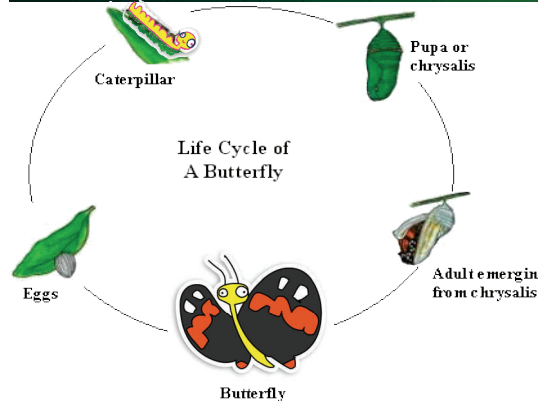
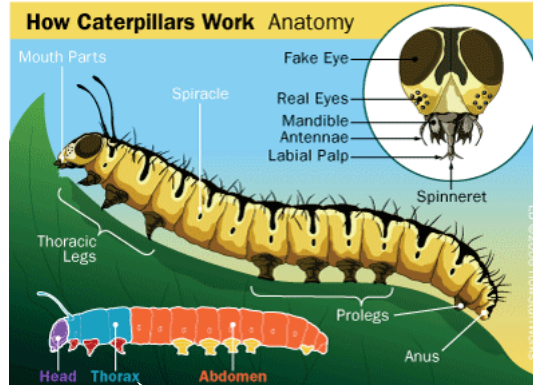
Spiracles are holes in the caterpillar's sides through which it breathes.

Antennae pick up tastes & smells.

False **eyes** distract predators.

Hairs, spines & quills called **setae** deter predators & even carry toxins & smelly irritants.

Silk comes from **spinnerets** in their heads. Silk helps them move from tree to tree, escaping from predators or finding food.



What happens in a chrysalis?

The transformation from caterpillar to butterfly is amazing! It's a bit like recycling a plastic bottle; it can be melted down into an entirely different shape. Inside the chrysalis much of the body breaks itself down into **imaginal cells** - these are like stem cells and can become any type of cell. The imaginal cells put themselves back together into a new shape.

This process of complete transformation is known as **holometabolism**. The amount of time required to transform completely can take from two weeks up to several months.

Supported by **The National Lottery** through the Heritage Lottery Fund



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Meadow Butterfly Spotter



Small Copper



Common Blue



Gatekeeper



Comma



Speckled Wood



Meadow Brown

Don't forget to log in and record your sightings at wildlifewatch.org.uk