

Butterfly Life Steps

Summarize a life cycle using order and cause.

3.RI.1.B "Summarize texts using language that pertains to time, sequence, and cause and effect, referring to historical events, scientific ideas, or steps in technical procedures."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline First, Next, and Finally. In the first paragraph, circle why the caterpillar sheds its skin. In the last paragraph, circle why the butterfly must wait before flying.

From Egg to Butterfly

First, a butterfly egg hatches into a caterpillar. The caterpillar eats and grows. Its skin cannot stretch enough to hold its growing body, so it sheds that skin. The caterpillar repeats this process several times.

Next, the full-grown caterpillar enters the pupa stage, called a chrysalis. Its body changes during this stage. Wings and other adult body parts develop. A chrysalis may look still from the outside, but important changes are happening inside.

Finally, the adult butterfly emerges. Its wings are soft and folded, so it cannot fly immediately. It pumps fluid into its wings to expand them and waits for them to dry and harden. Then it can fly. After mating, a female can lay eggs, beginning another cycle.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Name the four life-cycle stages in order.

2 Why does the caterpillar shed its skin? Use because or so.

3 What happens during the chrysalis stage? What must happen after the adult emerges before it can fly?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a three-sentence summary. Use First, Next, and Finally. Include all four life stages and at least one cause-and-effect relationship using because or so.

Write and check

Use your own words. Reread the texts to check your answer.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline First, Next, and Finally. In the first paragraph, circle why the caterpillar sheds its skin. In the last paragraph, circle why the butterfly must wait before flying. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Name the four life-cycle stages in order.	Egg, caterpillar (larva), chrysalis (pupa), adult butterfly.
2	Why does the caterpillar shed its skin? Use because or so.	Its body grows, but its skin cannot stretch enough, so it sheds its skin.
3	What happens during the chrysalis stage? What must happen after the adult emerges before it can fly?	Adult body parts develop during the chrysalis stage. After emerging, the adult expands its wings and waits for them to dry and harden.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

First, an egg hatches into a caterpillar that eats, grows, and sheds its skin because the skin cannot stretch enough. Next, the insect becomes a chrysalis, where adult body parts develop. Finally, an adult emerges, expands and dries its wings, and can fly; a female can later lay eggs.

TEACHER ASSESSMENT NOTES

Accept equivalent summaries with all four stages in order and a supported cause. Read-and-mark causes: skin cannot stretch enough; wings are soft and folded. Do not require a cause in the chrysalis paragraph: it describes change during a stage, not why the stage begins. The model is one option; the soft-wing relationship is another valid cause. Check that students summarize important information rather than copy every detail. Facts checked against Florida Museum of Natural History, Butterfly Life Cycle: <https://www.floridamuseum.ufl.edu/educators/resource/butterfly-life-cycle/>.