From Caterpillar to Butterfly

By Mr. Carlton’s with help from our friends at PPHS and PPES
Part 1: Classification
Kingdom

Butterflies are members of the Animal Kingdom.

I know this because they are eukaryotic and heterotrophic. That means they have a nucleus in their cells and can’t make food from sunlight. They also can move and don’t have a cell wall.

Other members of the Animal kingdom include worms, bears, fish, and birds.
Phylum

Butterflies are in the Arthropod phylum.

I know this because they have wings and segmented bodies.

Other members of the Arthropod phylum are shrimp, crabs, and spiders.
Butterflies are in the Insect class. I know this because they have 2 pairs of wings, 3 body sections, and 6 legs.

Other members of this class include mosquitoes (ew!), ants, and bees.
Order

Butterflies are in the Lepidoptera order.

Moths are also Lepidopterans.
Part 2: The Life Cycle of a Butterfly
A butterfly starts off life as a caterpillar, or larva. Caterpillars have to eat a lot of plant leaves and other food to prepare to turn into a butterfly. They also shed their skin as they grow.
The cocoon, or chrysalis, is the next stage after the caterpillar. This stage is also called the pupa stage. The caterpillar slowly changes into a butterfly in the cocoon. You can find the cocoon under plant leaves.
Finally, the adult emerges from the chrysalis. It eats nectar from plants and lays eggs so that there can be more caterpillars and butterflies. It needs to hurry, because it may only live for 2 weeks!