

Most ladybirds feed on aphids, whitefly and mealy bugs.

The bright colour of their body is to scare away predators.

When they are disturbed, the ladybird will discharge drops of yellow, bitter, smelly liquid from their body.

Adult ladybirds hibernate through the winter.



Ladybird larvae

# Ladybirds



They lay their eggs from late spring to early summer.

The larvae hatch from the eggs. They then start to eat lots of aphids.

After three weeks the larvae attach themselves to a leaf and form a pupa. After about two weeks the ladybird appears out of it.

Other names for ladybirds are ladybugs, lady beetles, ladyclocks, lady cows, and lady flies.

# What did you learn about these insects?

1. What is another name for a ladybird?

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2. How does the ladybird scare away predators?

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3. When do ladybirds lay their eggs?

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4. What is a pupa?

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5. How are ladybirds like bears?

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# Caterpillars and butterflies



These start life as an egg on the underside of a leaf.

The egg hatches between three and twelve days later.

The caterpillar then starts to eat leaves and gradually grows to full size over two weeks.

The caterpillar will then attach itself to a twig head down and change into a chrysalis.

This takes a few hours.

About two weeks later the chrysalis begins to open and a butterfly emerges.



Chrysalis  
(pupa)

The butterfly has to wait for its wings to dry and stiffen before they can fly.



# How does a caterpillar become a butterfly?

1. How are ladybirds and butterflies alike?

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2. Why is it good that caterpillar eggs are laid on leaves?

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3. How long does it take for the egg to hatch?

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4. What is a chrysalis?

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5. Why can't a butterfly fly right after it emerges?

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