

Understanding **M**etamorphosis







Information sheet about metamorphosis and the important life lesson we learn from a butterfly

- ✿ Metamorphosis is like a **miracle** in plain sight!
- ✿ It is the process whereby a creature **changes shape** into something completely different.
- ✿ A **butterfly** is an excellent example of this process.



These are the stages of metamorphosis:

-  A female butterfly **lays eggs** on a plant.
-  Tiny **caterpillars** with voracious appetites hatch. They shed their skins repeatedly as they grow.
-  The caterpillar finally **stops eating**, hangs upside down from a twig and moults for the final time into a shiny **chrysalis**. A chrysalis is a hard exoskeleton to protect what's happening inside.
-  Inside the chrysalis, the caterpillar transforms to develop legs, wings, eyes and other parts of a butterfly. When it finally breaks out of the chrysalis, the **metamorphosis** is complete and the butterfly will play an important part as a **pollinator** as it flits from flower to flower in search of nectar.

Life Lesson

from a butterfly



Struggle

makes us stronger

Never help a butterfly if you see it struggling to emerge from its chrysalis.

The very act of struggling against the chrysalis walls pumps hemolymph (similar to blood) and life into the butterfly's wings.

Without the struggle, its wings remain crumpled and useless.

Encourage class discussion

Note
to
Teacher

and the learning of new words and concepts



exoskeleton

metamorphosis

voracious

hemolymph

pollinator

chrysalis