The Life Cycle of Butterflies and Beetles

There are four separate stages in the life of a butterfly: • The egg. The egg is a tiny, round or oval shape that gets attached by the female butterfly to a leaf, stem or other object. The egg is usually attached near the intended caterpillar food. Vocabulary life cycle structures stages reproductive oval mates intended colonizes enclose metamorphosis transformation emerges • The caterpillar or larva. The caterpillar or larva is the long, worm-like state of the butterfly. It sometimes has an interesting pattern of stripes or patches. It might have spine-like hairs. This is the feeding and the growth stage of the butterfly. As the caterpillar grows, it sheds its skin four or more times so it can enclose its rapidly growing body. • The chrysalis or pupa. The chrysalis or pupa is the transformation stage. The caterpillar tissues are broken down to form the adult insect structures. Usually the chrysalis is brown or green colour to blend into the surroundings. Many times the chrysalis stage will remain this way over winter. • The adult or imago. The adult or imago is the colourful butterfly that you see throughout the warmer months of spring and summer. The adult stage is called the reproductive stage. These adults find their mates and lay more eggs. The adult stage also migrates or colonizes new places to live. Beetles. The beetle has mouth parts to allow it to use a variety of solid foods in the environment. It has elytra which protect the hind-wings and give the beetle help in survival. Beetles undergo a change which is called “metamorphosis”. There are three stages before becoming an adult: • The egg. The beetle larva hatches from the eggs in the female’s saclike structure after the eggs were fertilized. • The larva. The larva hatches and grows until its body splits the skin. The larva crawls out of the old skin and forms a new skin. This is called “moulting”. Moulting occurs several times until the larva is mature. • The pupa. Wings develop and are seen in this stage. The adult. Within a month, the adult emerges from the pupa and searches for prey. The beetle feeds on plants and other insects. Its wings are full-size and the outer skeleton is now hard

Look say cover write check! Look at the word, say it, cover it, write it, and check the spelling.

life cycle

stages

oval

transformation

structures

reproductive

mates

colonized

2.Use each word in a sentence. Underline the word used.

Intended

enclose

emerges

metamorphosis

Multiple-Choice Question

1. Which does not describe a butterfly egg?

a. tiny, round or oval

b. large, diamond-like

c. attaches to leaf, stem or other object

d. attaches near caterpillar food

2. Which is not a true statement about the larva stage for a beetle?

a. Larva crawls out of old skin.

b. Moulting occurs several times until larva is mature.

c. Wings develop in this stage.

d. The process of crawling out of old skin is called “moulting”.

How is the life cycle of a butterfly and a beetle the same? How are they different? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Why do you think the author used the word “life cycle” in the title of this text and also within the text? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_