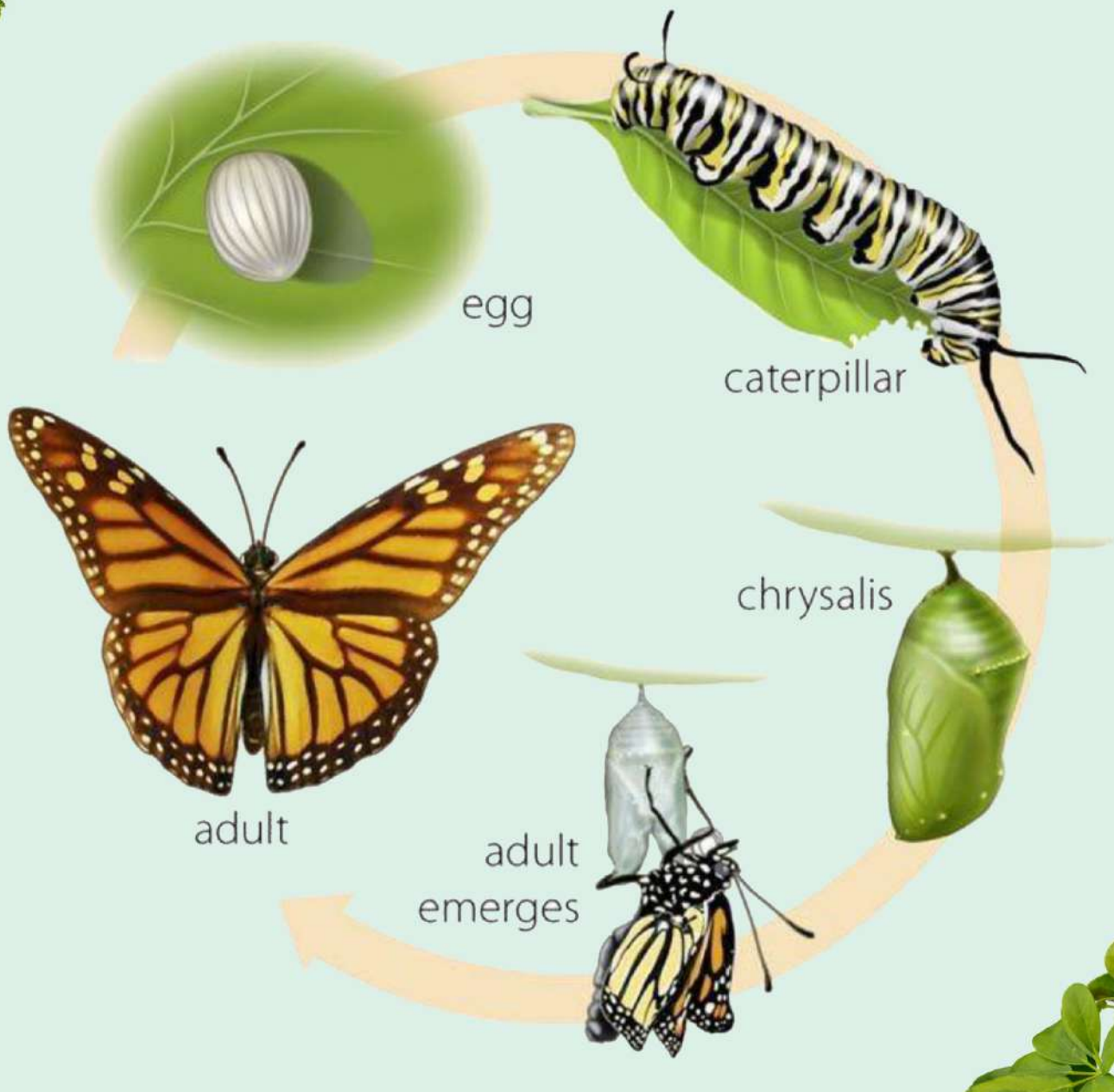



THE LIFE CYCLE OF A BUTTERFLY





The life cycle of a butterfly consists of four main stages: **egg, larva (caterpillar), pupa (chrysalis), and adult butterfly**. Each stage plays a crucial role in the development of the butterfly, leading to a complete metamorphosis. Here's an overview:

1. Egg


- 🦋 **Description:** The life cycle begins when a female butterfly lays her eggs, typically on the leaves of a plant that will later serve as food for the caterpillar.
- 🦋 **Time Duration:** The eggs usually hatch in a few days to weeks, depending on the butterfly species and environmental conditions.
- Special Note:** Eggs are often tiny, round, or oval and can have intricate textures.

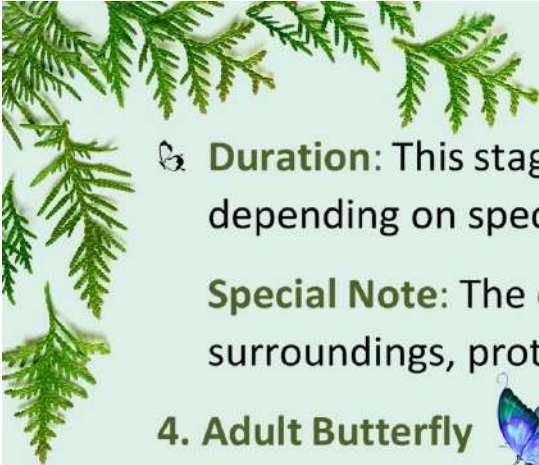
2. Larva (Caterpillar)

- 🦋 **Description:** After hatching, the caterpillar emerges and begins feeding on the host plant's leaves. Caterpillars grow rapidly, shedding their skin multiple times as they increase in size.
- 🦋 **Primary Goal:** Eat as much as possible to store energy for the next stage.
- 🦋 **Special Note:** Caterpillars are known for their bright colors, patterns, and sometimes bristles, which may help deter predators.

3. Pupa (Chrysalis)

Description: Once the caterpillar has eaten enough, it attaches itself to a safe spot and forms a pupa or chrysalis. Inside the chrysalis, it undergoes a remarkable transformation, reorganizing its body structure into that of a butterfly.



- 
- 🦋 **Duration:** This stage can last from a few weeks to several months, depending on species and environmental factors.

Special Note: The chrysalis often camouflages to blend in with its surroundings, protecting the pupa from predators.

4. Adult Butterfly



- 🦋 **Description:** After completing metamorphosis, the adult butterfly emerges from the chrysalis. Once its wings are fully expanded and dried, the butterfly takes flight to feed, mate, and continue the cycle.
- 🦋 **Primary Goal:** Reproduce by laying eggs, starting the life cycle anew.
- 🦋 **Special Note:** Butterflies typically live for a few weeks to a few months, although some species, like the Monarch butterfly, can live up to 9 months, especially when migrating.

This life cycle showcases **complete metamorphosis**, with each stage distinct in form and function, ensuring the butterfly's survival and reproduction.

