

INFORMATIONAL ESSAY #1

Name _____

DIRECTIONS: Read *The Life Cycle of A Butterfly* and answer the questions that follow.

THE LIFE CYCLE OF A

Butterfly

by J. Harrell

"Happiness is a butterfly," wrote Nathaniel Hawthorne. Most people would agree that it is wonderful watching a caterpillar turn into a beautiful butterfly. To grow into an adult, a butterfly goes through four stages, called metamorphosis. *Metamorphosis* is a Greek word that means *transformation* or *change in shape*.

The first stage of a butterfly's life cycle is the egg. The egg is very small and is usually round or oval in shape. It has a hard outer shell to protect the tiny larva inside. It is lined with wax so that the egg doesn't dry out. Butterfly eggs are usually laid on the top or on the underside of plant leaves.

The second stage of a butterfly's life cycle is the caterpillar. The caterpillar is the larval stage of the life cycle. After the egg hatches, the tiny caterpillar's job is to eat. It starts by eating the leaf it was born on. The caterpillar begins to grow rapidly, getting ready for the next stage.

The third stage in the butterfly's life cycle is the pupa, or chrysalis. While in this stage, the caterpillar hangs from a branch. The caterpillar's skeleton is on the outside; this is called an exoskeleton. Inside the exoskeleton, the caterpillar is undergoing a change. During this stage, the caterpillar pupa is turning into a butterfly. When all of the changes have occurred, the pupa is ready for the final stage of the butterfly's life cycle.

Finally, the butterfly's life cycle enters the fourth and final stage. It is now a butterfly. As soon as it comes out of the chrysalis, the butterfly flaps its wings to get blood flowing into them. They then learn to fly. As soon as they can fly, they search for a mate so that the life cycle of a new butterfly can begin.

A butterfly's metamorphosis involves four stages. The butterfly starts out as an egg, hatches as a caterpillar, turns into a chrysalis, and finally emerges as a butterfly. This process can take a month or it can take an entire year, depending on the type of butterfly. Metamorphosis isn't easy or quick, but the end result is the beautiful creature that can inspire anyone who is lucky enough to see one on a summer's day.



The Life Cycle of a Butterfly by J. Harrell



1. What is the **topic** of the essay?

2. What is the **purpose** of the essay? This is the **main idea**.

3. Look at the **first sentence**. How has the writer decided to begin this essay? This is the **hook**.

4. Which sentence in the first paragraph tells the reader exactly what the essay is going to be about? This is the **thesis statement**.

5. How many **body paragraphs** are in this essay? _____

6. Why has the writer included this number of body paragraphs?

7. How are the body paragraphs **organized**? This is called **structure**.

8. Which **key words** tell you that the text is organized in this way?

9. What **type of information** does the writer use to **develop** each body paragraph?

10. What is the purpose of the **concluding paragraph**?

Sequencing Prompts

Name _____

An older relative wants to play your favorite video game, but has never played video games before. How can you explain how to play?

sequence

What are the steps a person must follow to find a good rescue dog from a shelter?

sequence

A friend has invited you to go camping. What must you do in order to get ready for the trip?

sequence