The Butterfly

We all love butterflies for their beautiful, brightly-coloured wings. But did you know that these fab flyers begin life as something *completely* different? As they grow, they undergo one seriously terrific transformation – a process known as "*metamorphosis*".

Stage 1: the egg



It all starts when a female butterfly lays her eggs, usually on leaves or stems of plants. Inside these tiny eggs, caterpillars grow. Depending on the species, the eggs can vary in shape and texture – they can be round, oval or cylindrical, and smooth, bumpy or wrinkled.

Stage 2: the caterpillar



Once ready, the caterpillar leaves its egg home and enters the big outside world! And these little critters have one serious appetite – they actually *eat* their way out of the egg and immediately start chomping on the leaves of the host plant. During this stage, they shed their skin four or five times – as the caterpillar grows, its skin becomes too tight and splits open, revealing a new, larger skin underneath. A fully grown caterpillar can be over 100 times larger than when it emerged from its egg.

Stage 3: the pupa



Once fully grown, the caterpillar forms itself into a "pupa" (or chrysalis) – a kind of vessel in which the caterpillar changes into a butterfly. They usually do this on twigs or safe, hidden areas around a plant. The "pupa" stage may last a few weeks to several months depending on the species. During this time, a hardened case forms around the pupa to protect it from predators and extreme weather conditions. And inside, the tissue, limbs and organs of the caterpillar transform. The result? A wonderful winged butterfly!

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Stage 4: the butterfly



Once the butterfly is ready to emerge, the case around the pupa splits open. But it's not time for take off just yet, as the wings are at first wet, soft and wrinkled against its body. The butterfly waits for its wings to dry, and pumps a liquid called hemolymph into them so that they become big and strong. Once fit for flight, this brilliant bug then takes to the air in search for flowers to feed on and for other butterflies to mate with.

And that's the cycle complete – and ready to start all over again!

Source: https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/discover/animals/insects/butterfly-life-cycle/

Questions:

1. What is the author's purpose in this text?
   a) To entertain us with a story about butterflies
   b) To persuade us to go look at butterflies outside
   c) To inform us about the transformation of butterflies

2. What is the correct order of stages of the butterfly?
   a) Pupa, egg, caterpillar, butterfly
   b) Egg, pupa, caterpillar, butterfly
   c) Butterfly, pupa, egg, caterpillar
   d) Egg, caterpillar, pupa, butterfly

3. How many times do caterpillars shed their skin?
   a) About 3 or 4 times
   b) About 4 or 5 times
   c) About 2 or 3 times

4. Which word is a synonym for "metamorphosis"?
   a) Undo
   b) Transformation
   c) Cocooning
   d) Spinning

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5. What do pupas usually form on?
   a) Flowers
   b) Houses
   c) Twigs
   d) The ground

6. Butterfly eggs can vary in _____ and _____.
   a) Size and shape
   b) Shape and texture
   c) Texture and color
   d) Size

7. How do caterpillars get out of the egg?
   a) They push their way out
   b) They grow their way out
   c) They eat their way out
   d) They wiggle their way out

8. In which stage does the caterpillar transform into a butterfly?
   a) Egg
   b) Caterpillar
   c) Pupa
   d) Butterfly

9. Why does the butterfly wait to fly after first emerging from its cocoon?
   a) It looks for food first
   b) It is tired
   c) It needs energy to fly
   d) Its wings must dry first

10. How many stages does the butterfly go through?
    a) 4
    b) 3
    c) 5
    d) 6

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