

## The life cycle of a silkworm moth

The following are stages in the life cycle of a silkworm moth.

- ✎ A female adult silkworm moth lays between 200 and 500 tiny eggs about the size of a full stop.
- ✎ The eggs are light yellow at first and then turn black after a few days.
- ✎ About 20 days after they are laid, the eggs hatch into tiny caterpillars.
- ✎ The caterpillars eat fresh mulberry leaves day and night.
- ✎ They grow quickly and moult (shed their skin) several times before they are fully grown.
- ✎ Then the caterpillars stop eating. Each one starts to spin a cocoon of silk around itself.
- ✎ The caterpillar changes into a moth inside the cocoon.
- ✎ After three weeks, the moth breaks out of the silk cocoon.
- ✎ Adult moths have fat bodies and small wings. They lay eggs. They cannot fly or eat and live only for about five days.



Questions:

1. Which event happens soon after the eggs hatch?
2. What does the moth do after it breaks out of its cocoon?

Number the events in order by dragging the correct number next to them.

1      2      3      4      5

- \_\_\_\_ Between 200 and 500 eggs are laid.
- \_\_\_\_ The caterpillar stops eating.
- \_\_\_\_ The egg turns black.
- \_\_\_\_ The caterpillar changes into a moth.
- \_\_\_\_ The moth breaks out of the cocoon.