



# Life Cycle of the Butterfly



- A** Look carefully at these two butterflies that live in Ireland. Copy their different patterns and colours.



Red Admiral  
(size: 65 mm)



Small Tortoiseshell  
(size: 50 mm)



## Hot Science

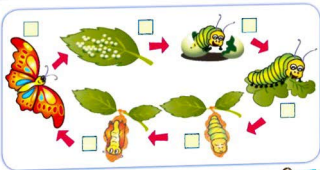
You use your tongue to taste things. Butterflies use their feet.

- B** Read about the life cycle of the butterfly. Write the missing words.

- The butterfly lays about 500 eggs. It uses a special g \_\_\_\_\_ to stick them onto leaves.
- Let's look at just one egg. The egg hatches. Out comes a c \_\_\_\_\_.
- The caterpillar starts to eat l \_\_\_\_\_. It eats and eats. It grows big and strong.
- The caterpillar covers itself in a cocoon (like you cover yourself with a d \_\_\_\_\_).
- Inside its cocoon, the caterpillar starts to change. It grows w \_\_\_\_\_.
- The caterpillar turns into a butterfly and breaks out of its cocoon. It f \_\_\_\_\_ off to find food.

glue  
leaves  
caterpillar  
duvet  
flies >  
wings

- C** Write the missing numbers, 1 to 6, for each stage of the life cycle.



Find out and write about the Monarch butterfly and the amazing journey it makes.





# The Butterfly Bush

**A** Read about the Butterfly Bush. Fill in the Fact File.

We can make habitats by planting trees and special shrubs that butterflies, birds and bees love. One of the shrubs we can plant is called the Butterfly Bush or Buddleia (*budd lee ah*). This shrub grows to about 5 metres high and can have purple, blue, red, pink or white flowers. It sows its seeds easily, so you may see it growing on waste ground and on building sites. Its flowers can be up to 25 centimetres long, making it easy for hungry butterflies to spot them. The flowers smell like honey and are full of nectar. Nectar is the butterfly's main food. The flowers bloom from June until October, so there is plenty of time for the butterflies to drink the sweet nectar. Red Admiral and Small Tortoiseshell butterflies love the Butterfly Bush.



## Fact File: Butterfly Bush

Less common name: \_\_\_\_\_

Height it can grow to: \_\_\_\_\_

Length of its flowers: \_\_\_\_\_

Flower colours: \_\_\_\_\_

Months when it is in bloom: \_\_\_\_\_

Two butterflies that like it: \_\_\_\_\_

Where it grows: \_\_\_\_\_

## Hot History

After World War 2 the Butterfly Bush was often seen growing where a bomb had fallen. People who lived during this war called it the 'Bombsite Plant'.

**B** Colour the Butterfly Bush. Choose a colour (purple, blue, red, pink or white) for its long flowers.



Find out about the Rowan tree and make a Fact File. It has berries that birds love.

