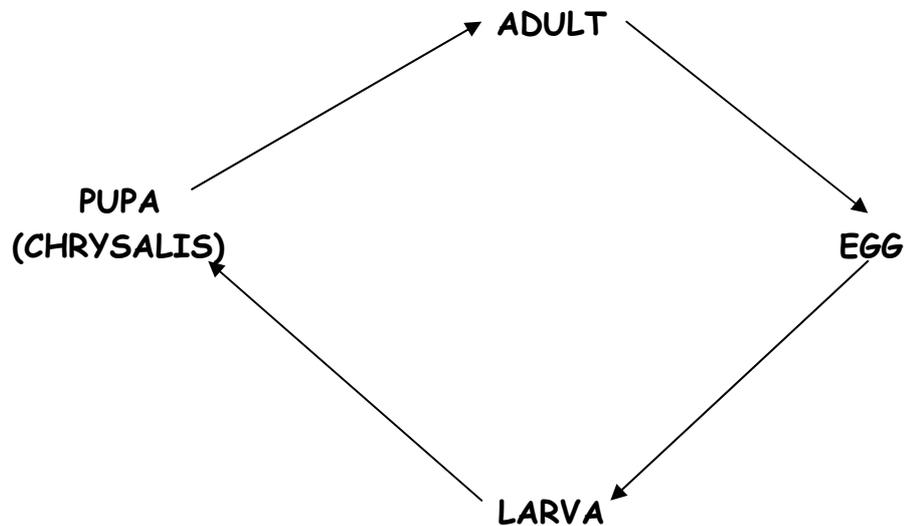


# Insect Life-cycles

## *Looking for evidence of life-cycles!*

In Great Britain there are about 22,000 recorded species of insects. Each insect begins its life as an egg, after which it goes through a change of its form, known as **Metamorphosis**. This is usually in **four stages**-

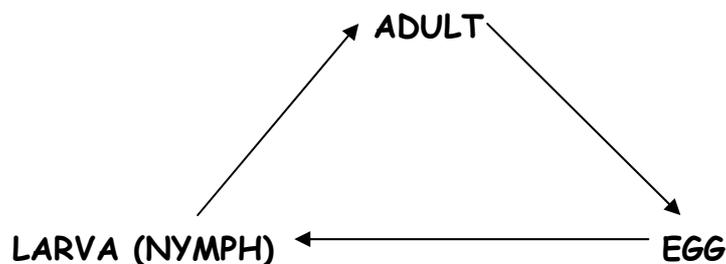


## BUTTERFLY LIFE-CYCLE

This is described as a **life-cycle**. Adults find a **mate** and **reproduce**, and the process starts again.

Some insects such as Butterflies go through a **complete life-cycle** and this is called a **Complete Metamorphosis**. As you know Caterpillars (Larva) are completely different in form to the Butterfly (Adult).

**Dragonflies** and **Damselflies** have a different life-cycle. Their life cycle is known as an **Incomplete Metamorphosis**. They do not have a **pupal stage** and change from their Larval form (Nymph) straight into an Adult.



## DRAGONFLY & DAMSELFLY LIFE-CYCLE

## Can you find any evidence of life-cycles?

At each of the stages of an insects life-cycle they have different missions. Your mission is to find any evidence of these stages. Use the clues below to help you locate the following:

### EGGS

*I am immobile, vulnerable and hidden. I am laid under leaves, either singly or in a group. My shape and colour is unique to my species.*

Look under the leaves of plants and trees. Can you see any insects laying eggs?

### LARAVA (CATERPILLARS)

*I am very active and my mission is to eat as much as possible! I am vulnerable as I have a soft body. I protect my self by using camouflage and sometimes I am bright in colour to warn birds that I am poisonous! DON'T TOUCH ME*

Look for Caterpillars on leaves and plants. How many different caterpillars have you found? Make a list below, with a description of their colour and shape.

### PUPA

*I am very difficult to find as I am often well hidden. I am dormant and resting. Inside my hard outer shell I am changing into an adult.*

Have a look under leaves and under fallen leaves. You will be lucky to find some. Why do you think a pupa has hard shell?

### ADULT BUTTERFLY

*I am very active and obvious, often colourful. I am flying around trying to find a mate to reproduce.*

How many different butterflies have you seen? Make a list of their names below