



Butterflies are insects whose bodies and wings are covered with tiny scales like a fish. They sip nectar from flowers through what looks like their nose, but it really is a long straw-like feeding tube called a proboscis. They start off as an egg laid by an adult butterfly. About 5 days later the egg hatches and a caterpillar comes out. Caterpillars live long enough to eat what they need to form a chrysalis. It can take a week or longer for them to eat enough. Only the caterpillar knows when they have eaten enough food. Then the caterpillar forms a chrysalis. It can take ten days to a couple of months for a butterfly to hatch, depending on the species. Shortly after they emerge from their chrysalis, a butterfly has to put the 2 pieces of its proboscis together by rubbing them back and forth until it zips together. If it doesn't zip together, the butterfly cannot drink and it will die.