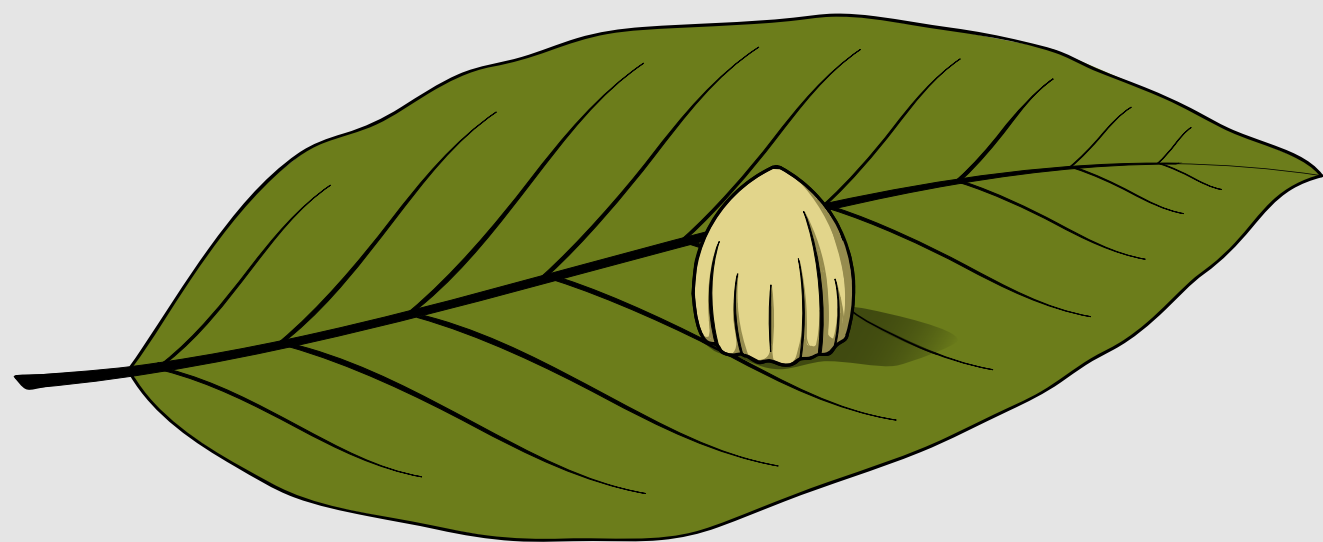


A Closer Look: Butterfly Life Stages

1

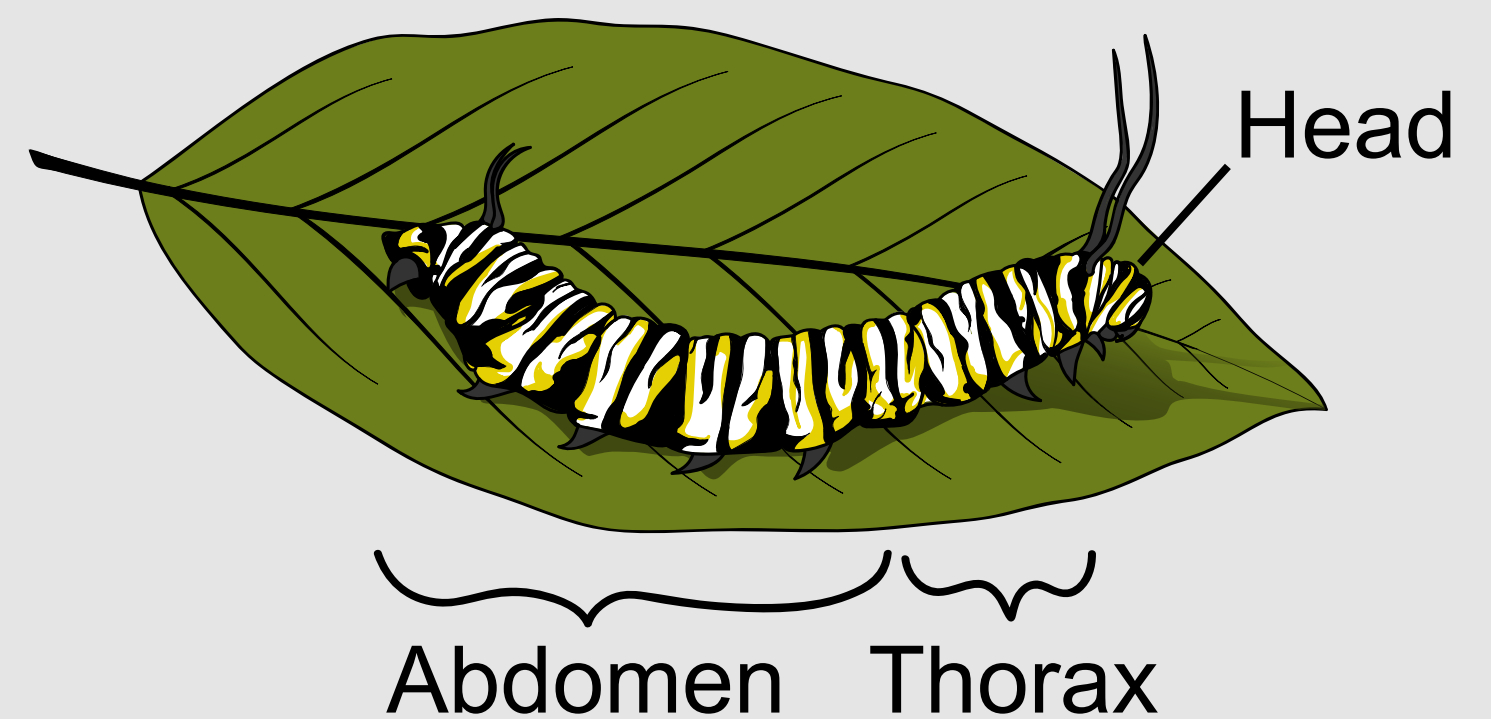


egg

- Eggs can be very small (e.g. as small as the period at the end of this sentence) and hatch after 4 to 6 days.
- While butterflies don't care for their young, the eggs are laid on or near a food source.
- This way, when the larvae hatch, they have an easily accessible food source.
- On average, a female can lay around 100 - 300 eggs!

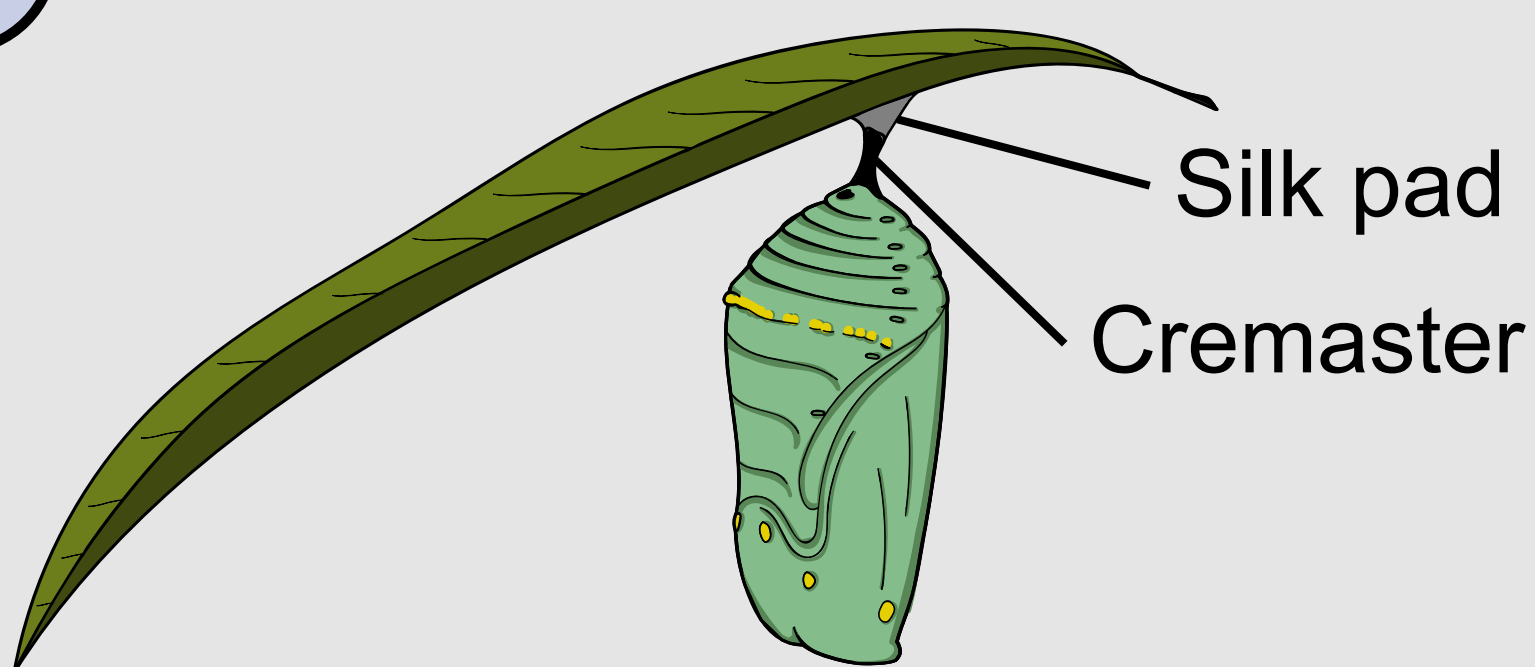
2

- Larvae have one job: grow! They are often called "eating machines" and only take breaks to rest.
- When the larva gets too big for its skin, it *molts* - or sheds its skin.
- Larvae go through five stages of molting (*instars*)
- They can grow as long as 3 inches by the final instar!
- It takes ~10-14 days for larvae to be fully grown.



larva

3

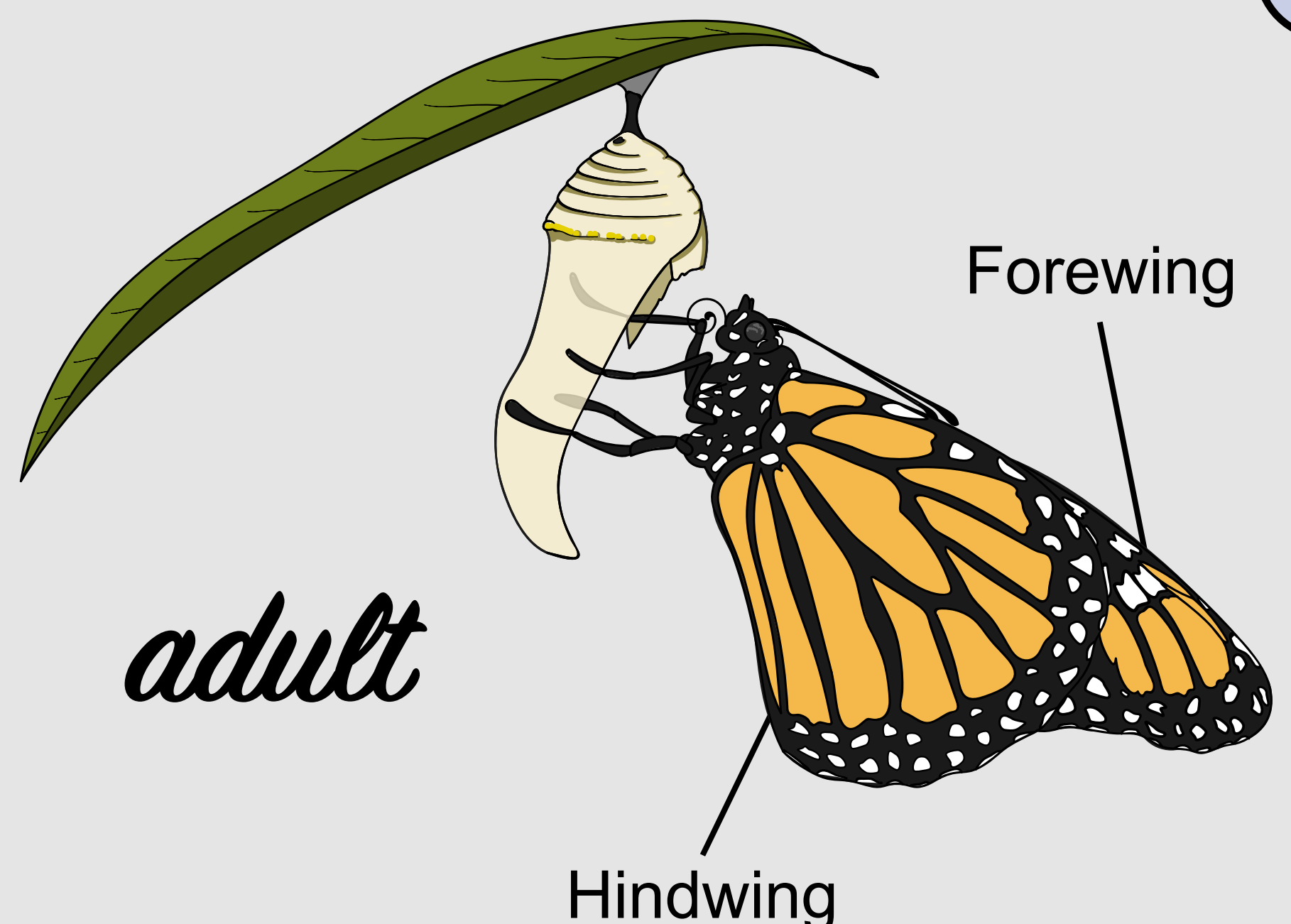


chrysalis

- Larvae transform into beautiful butterflies over 9 to 14 days inside the *chrysalis*.
- The *cremaster* is a spiny appendage at the end of the larva's abdomen.
- The larva hooks the cremaster into the *silk pad*, which it spun just before pupation.
- It hangs from the pad until it emerges as an adult.

4

- When butterflies and moths come out of the chrysalis, their wings are crumpled and wet.
- With time, they expand, dry, and fan out to look like the wings we know and love!
- The main job of an adult butterfly is to mate and lay eggs that will become the next generation of butterflies.
- To fly around and mate, butterflies need energy, which they usually get from nectar (from flowers).



adult