



A butterfly

Some animals change a lot as they grow up. Butterflies are a good example.

Butterflies are grown-up insects, but they don't start with wings. They start as caterpillars. When a butterfly egg hatches, a soft-bodied caterpillar climbs out. The caterpillar has many legs and no wings.

As the caterpillar eats leaves, it grows fatter and bigger. Later, it goes to sleep and changes into a butterfly.



Monarch butterfly eggs hatching.

The caterpillar of a monarch butterfly.





Here is the caterpillar making a 'sleeping bag' or chrysalis.

When it has grown as much as it can, the caterpillar stops eating. It fastens itself to a twig and then begins to make a silky coat. This coat hardens around the caterpillar. It is called a chrysalis.

In time, the chrysalis breaks open and a butterfly comes out.

Here is the monarch butterfly.



How is the caterpillar different from the butterfly?