

### Basic Butterfly Vocabulary (PreK–2)

**Abdomen** – the hind part of the body on the caterpillar and the butterfly. All insects have one!

**Antennae** – found on the butterfly's head, used to taste the air and help with balance and orientation.

**Caterpillar or Larva** – the feeding stage of a butterfly or moth. It is wingless and wormlike.

**Chrysalis or Pupa** – the unmoving stage of a butterfly or moth. It has a hard shell, shaped like an upside-down teardrop.

**Compound eyes** – found on the butterfly's head. Thousands of tiny lenses help the butterfly see in all directions and recognize color and pattern and movement.

**Proboscis** – the butterfly tongue, which works like a drinking straw. In metamorphosis, the proboscis is formed as two separate parts, which the butterfly uncoils and zips together to form a tube for drinking.

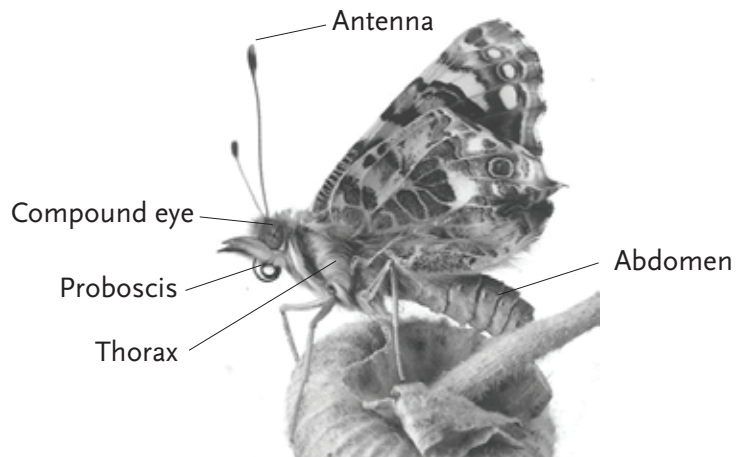
**Thorax** – the three front segments of the caterpillar, each segment has a pair of legs. The front part of the butterfly's body.



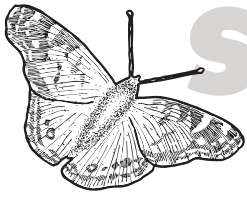
Caterpillar or Larva



Chrysalis or Pupa



Butterfly



### Butterfly Expert Vocabulary (Grades 3–6)

**Joints** – located between the butterfly's leg segments, joints help the butterfly bend and move the body.

**Larva** – the second stage of metamorphosis—another term for caterpillar.

**Mandible** – the caterpillar's jaw.

**Ocelli** – name for the three sets of eyes each caterpillar has. The caterpillar's vision is poor even with all those eyes!

**Palpi** – feelers that help the caterpillar "see" where it's going—also found on the butterfly's head.

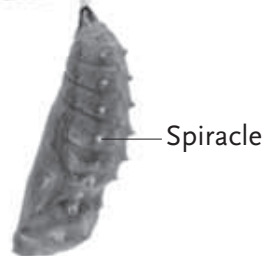
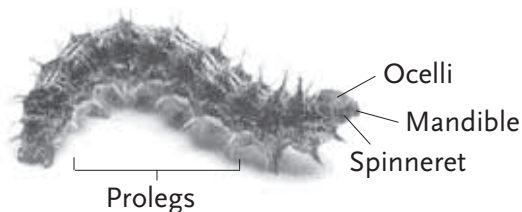
**Prolegs** – found on segments 3 through 8 and the last segment of a caterpillar.

**Pupa** – the third stage of metamorphosis—another name for the chrysalis.

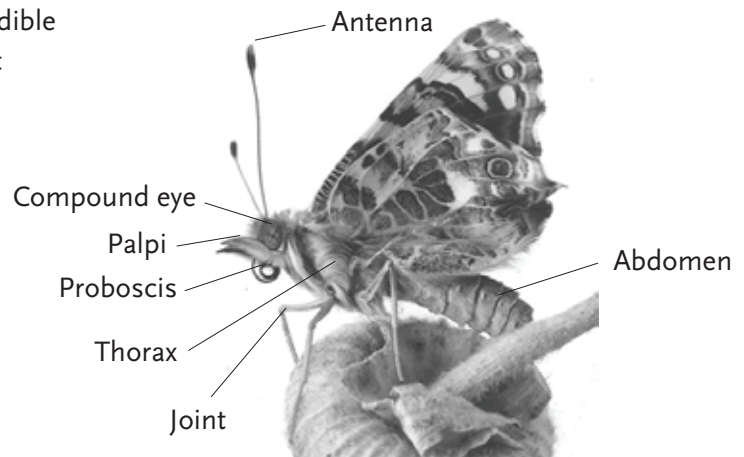
**Spinneret** – opening of the silk gland, found on the caterpillar's lower lip. It's used to create the silk pad to which the chrysalis attaches.

**Spiracles** – breathing holes. Found in pairs—one on each side of all segments of the caterpillar except the second, third and the last. Spiracles are also found on the chrysalis and butterfly.

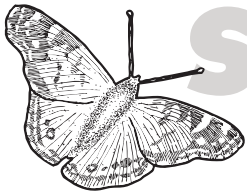
#### Caterpillar or Larva



#### Chrysalis or Pupa



#### Butterfly



### Lepidopterist Vocabulary (Advanced Grades 3–6)

**Anal claspers** – hind legs on the caterpillar. Used to attach to the silk pad the caterpillar spins at the beginning of the chrysalis stage.

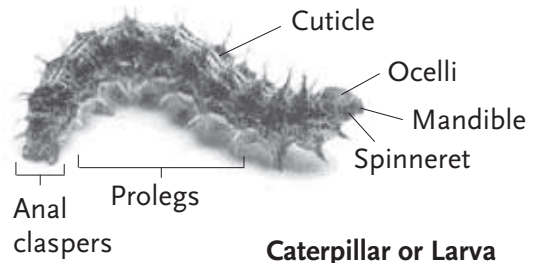
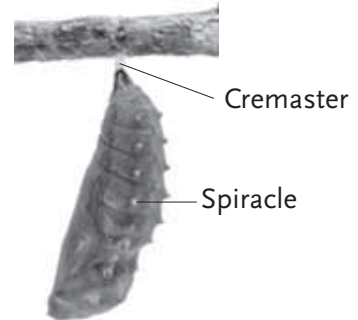
**Cremaster** – replaces the anal claspers in attaching the chrysalis to the top of the cup or to a twig.

**Crochets** – groups of hooks on the caterpillar's prolegs.

**Cuticle** – the skin, or exoskeleton, of the caterpillar and chrysalis. The painted lady caterpillar's cuticle has short spines. These spines are a defense from predators.

**Exuvia** – the name for the molted caterpillar cuticle. Look for it in the bottom of the cup!

Chrysalis or Larva



### Other Important Terms

**Diurnal** – active during the day.

**Entomologist** – scientist who studies insects.

**Frass** – caterpillar excrement (those little round balls at the bottom of the cup).

**Habitat** – environment that supports the survival of a species.

**Lepidopterist** – scientist who studies butterflies.

**Metamorphosis** – the process of development from one thing into another, often marked by body changes.

**Migrate** – to travel from one place to another, often seasonally.

**Molt** – Caterpillars molt, or shed their skin, as they grow.

**Nocturnal** – active at night.

**Pheromones** – special chemicals the butterflies give off to attract a mate.

**Puddling** – Butterflies gather, or puddle, at damp dirt. From the dirt, they are getting sodium, an essential part of their diet.