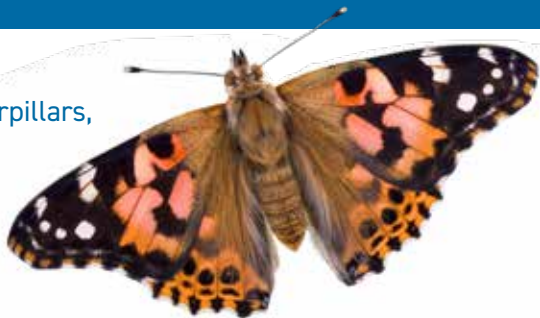




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Instructions

Once you receive your Painted Lady butterfly *larvae*, also known as caterpillars, you will experience one of nature's most incredible transformations! By following the steps below, you'll help your caterpillars become beautiful butterflies!



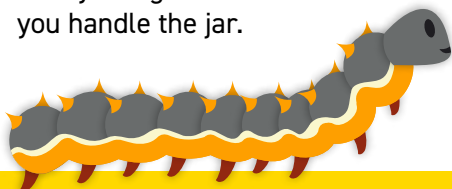
CATERPILLAR STAGE

Your caterpillars will arrive in a jar with all the food they need to grow. It's important that you simply observe the caterpillars in the jar because opening the lid could cause mold or bacteria to grow on the food. Here are some important tips on how to care for your caterpillars:

- Place the jar in a safe location where it will remain upright and away from direct sunlight or cold drafts. The caterpillars inside need to be left at a comfortable room temperature.
- The caterpillars will be very small and inactive at first, so give them time to get used to their new surroundings. It may take up to 48 hours before the caterpillars begin to move and eat much.
- Always be gentle when you handle the jar.
- Always keep the lid on so the caterpillars' food remains free from bacteria or mold.
- Observe your caterpillars' growth often. They will grow fast and will shed their exoskeletons multiple times before advancing to the next stage of growth.
- Caterpillars can take up to 14 days to reach maturity, at which time they'll begin to form chrysalises on the top of the cup.



WARNING:
CHOKING HAZARD— Small parts.
Not for children under 3 yrs.





PUPA STAGE

When the caterpillars are fully matured, they will crawl to the top of the jar and hang from the material on the underside of the lid. They will shed their exoskeleton one last time, then begin to harden into a chrysalis.

IMPORTANT: Wait for 3 days after the last caterpillar forms a chrysalis before completing the following steps.

1. Gently open the lid of the jar and remove the material underneath with the chrysalises attached. Be very careful when handling the material to keep all the chrysalises attached.



2. Using a safety pin or duct tape, secure the material to the side of the butterfly habitat so that the chrysalises are facing outward.



3. Leave the material undisturbed* to allow the butterflies to fully develop. Adult butterflies will emerge in 7-10 days. **Note:** *Butterflies often extrude small red droplets called meconium when they first emerge and stretch their wings. This is normal. Meconium is extra material not needed to finish metamorphosis.*

*If a chrysalis falls during this stage, gently move it to the side so that it is in contact with the wall of the habitat and do not handle it again. This will give the butterfly a chance to climb up the wall of the habitat and spread its wings if it is able to complete its metamorphosis.



7-10 Days



CREATE A FEEDING SOLUTION

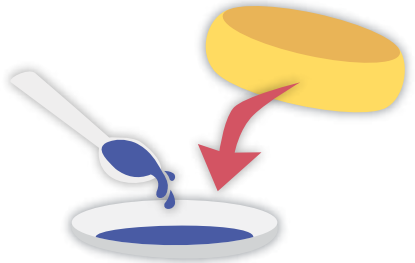


Before you create the feeding solution, use the flower-petal stickers included in the kit to decorate your flower-shaped feeder dish. The small plastic feeding dish and sponge will sit in the center of the flower-shaped dish at the bottom of the butterfly habitat.

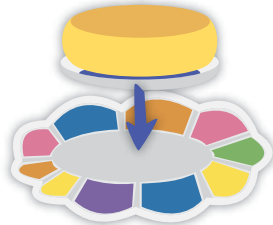
1. Wait 2-3 hours after all your butterflies emerge. Then create a feeding solution by dissolving 1 teaspoon of sugar in $\frac{1}{4}$ cup (60 mL) of water.



2. Pour 1 teaspoon of the solution into the small plastic feeding dish. Then place the sponge on top of the solution in the dish. This will help ensure the butterflies don't fall into the feeding solution, which may cause them to drown.



3. Place the small plastic feeding dish with sugar solution and sponge in the middle of the flower-shaped feeding dish. Then place it inside the butterfly habitat.



4. Replace the sugar water solution every other day and refrigerate any extra sugar water solution not in use.

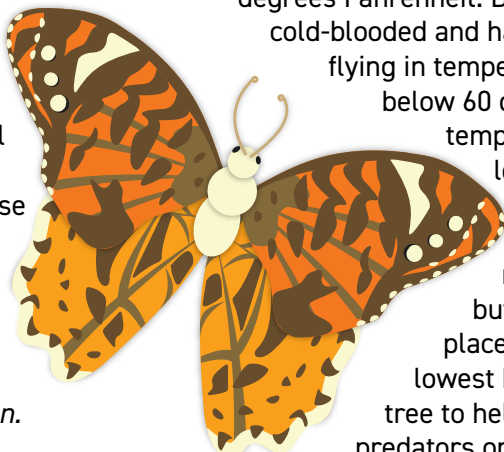


Every other Day

BUTTERFLY CARE AND RELEASE



Adult Painted Lady butterflies will typically live for 2 to 3 weeks. You may keep your butterflies safely in your habitat for that time, or you may choose to release them into the wild. Be sure to check local regulations to ensure that it is safe to release butterflies in your area. **Note:** *Painted Lady butterflies cannot be released in Connecticut, North Dakota, or Washington.*



If you can release your butterflies, try to do so on a dry day when temperatures are between 60-70 degrees Fahrenheit. Butterflies are cold-blooded and have difficulty flying in temperatures below 60 degrees. If temperatures are lower, or if it is raining, and you must release the butterflies, try to place them on the lowest branch of a tree to help them avoid predators on the ground.



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