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Congratulations on purchasing your Painted Lady (*Vanessa cardui*) butterfly kit!!! Over the next few weeks, watch and observe the changes your caterpillars go through on their way to becoming a beautiful butterfly. Your kit has all the food the caterpillars need to grow into strong, healthy adults. All you have to do is find a safe place to set your caterpillars and watch them grow. **Do not place them in direct sunlight or they will overheat. Do not remove lid until you have chrysalis.** Your butterflies will need to be kept between 65* and 85* Fahrenheit. To help you learn a little bit about these amazing insects, listed below is their life cycle.

Days 4-15

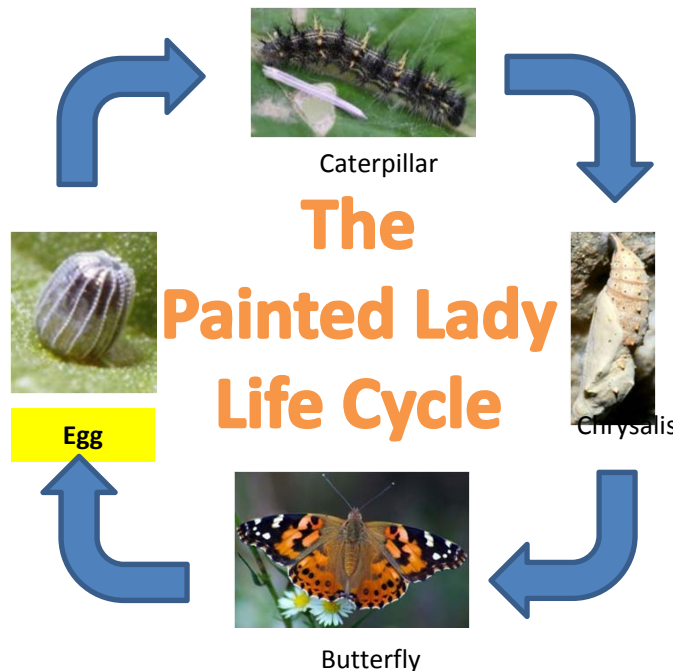
After 3 days inside the egg, the caterpillar emerges and he's hungry. His first meal is his own egg shell which is rich in nutrients. For the next 11 days he'll eat and grow from a tiny speck into a full grown caterpillar, measuring about 1 ¼ - 1 ½ inches. On day 15, he'll crawl to the top of his home, spin a web, and hang upside down.

Days 16-25

After a few hours of hanging upside down, his skin will split and fall off, revealing a chrysalis, a hard protective covering. While it may not appear that anything is happening on the outside, inside the caterpillar is going through some drastic changes. After a few days, it will be best to take the chrysalis and place it on a paper towel inside of a netted cage or clean the cup and add a piece of paper towel across the bottom and up one side to place the chrysalis on. Don't worry if he twitches, it's normal.

Days 1-3

For the first 3 days of his life, the Painted Lady grows inside of a tiny blue egg, which is laid on a thistle plant by a butterfly. Here he will develop until it is ready to begin his great journey.



Day 26

After about 9 days inside the chrysalis, the caterpillar is gone. He has grown into a beautiful butterfly. The chrysalis will split open and the butterfly will emerge all wrinkled up and wet. **Don't touch him!** He will crawl up the side of his cage and there his wings will expand and dry. After a few hours, his wings will harden and he will be ready to take his first flight. If you decide to keep him for a few days, just remember, he likes sweet things to drink, sugar water, fruit or grape Gatorade. **(make sure it's not low calorie).** Just put some on a paper towel and place it on a plastic lid inside the cage for him to drink.



Mini Pop-Up

ORANGE CAP!!!



If you have any questions, please call (570)-394-7298

Copies are available at www.folksbutterflyfarm.com/plk_info.htm