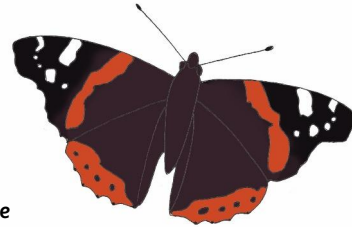


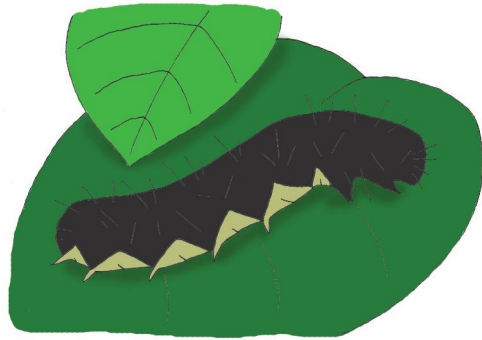
The Red Admiral Butterfly

Introduction

The Red Admiral butterfly is a common **species** of butterfly found in the United Kingdom. Its wings are charcoal black and burnt orange in colour and often have bright white spots. Adult Red Admiral butterflies can be found feeding on Bramble bushes and **Buddleia** plants.



All butterflies go through a **complete metamorphosis** during their life. This means that at different stages in their lifecycle the butterfly will look completely different. For example, the caterpillar or **larvae** looks very different to its grown up version, the butterfly.



How does the Red Admiral grow?

Female adults lay single eggs on young nettle leaves. After about a week or so the egg hatches and a caterpillar emerges. The caterpillar of the Red Admiral is black and lime green in colour. While the caterpillar is at this stage of its growth, the caterpillar will eat and grow as much as it can ready for the next stage in its lifecycle. The caterpillar does not stay a caterpillar for long. It goes through a **transformation** in which it **cocoons** itself to help with the next stage of its metamorphosis.

The **chrysalis** is one of the most important stages of the transformation. Within the chrysalis the caterpillar breaks down its own tissues and the insect **structures** of the butterfly grow and develop. Once the transformation is complete, the butterfly **emerges** from the chrysalis. On average, the life of an adult butterfly lasts for only two weeks.

Where can Red Admirals be found?

Red Admiral butterflies can be seen all over the United Kingdom including towns and cities as well as in the countryside. Red Admirals are one of the last species of butterflies to be seen before the winter arrives, and you can often still see them on flowering plants in November.

How can we help look after Red Admirals?

Many butterfly species across the United Kingdom are in steady **decline**. In your garden, you can make sure you help the Red Admiral by planting flowers that will provide **nectar** for the butterflies to drink. Red Admirals love Buddleia and Ivy plants, but any type of flowering plants will attract butterflies as well as other insects. Butterflies need to have some shelter too, they prefer a garden that is not too windy!

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Lifecycles – 3c – Text

The Red Admiral Butterfly – Follow Up Work

Describe what an adult Red Admiral butterfly looks like. (AF2)

Why is the Chrysalis stage important for the butterfly? (AF2/AF3)

Why are the headings underlined? (AF5)

What adjectives are used to describe the colour of the Red Admiral? (AF6)

What is meant by the term 'complete metamorphosis'? (AF3)

Why has the author chosen the title 'The Red Admiral Butterfly'? Can you think of another title that could be used? (AF3)

Does the layout help the reader? If so, how? (AF4)

Can you describe the timeline of events for the Red Admiral? (AF2)

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Lifecycles – 3c – Follow-Up Work