

# Butterflies

Butterflies are invertebrates - that is, unlike animals they don't have a backbone.

There are about 17,500 butterfly species in the world with 400 in Australia.

The caterpillars of the endangered **Bathurst Copper Butterfly** only eat the leaves of one species of the Blackthorn plant. This is not a wise survival plan.

Also known as the Purple Copper Butterfly, it has a wing span of only 20mm - which is about the width of a ten cent coin.

The **Cairns Birdwing Butterfly** (not shown here) is Australia's largest butterfly with a wing span of up to 150mm - which is about the width of a page of this book.



Bathurst Copper Butterfly  
(endangered) (Julie Favell)



Australian Painted Lady

The four stages of a butterfly's life are egg, caterpillar, pupa (*pew-pa*) and adult butterfly.

The pupa is enclosed in a chrysalis (*cris-al-is*).



Tailed Emperor Butterfly caterpillar  
(Robin Murray)



Tailed Emperor Butterfly (Robin Murray)



Tailed Emperor Butterfly chrysalis  
(Robin Murray)

**Q.** How do you get rid of butterflies in your stomach?

**A.** .gnilqre!sno pni!se qot?

*Look for caterpillars and watch how they change into chrysalises or cocoons, and if you're lucky, see them emerge as butterflies or moths.*

*But don't touch them as they are fragile.*



Have you seen a caterpillar?

Have you seen a chrysalis?

Have you seen a cocoon?

Did you see what emerged?