

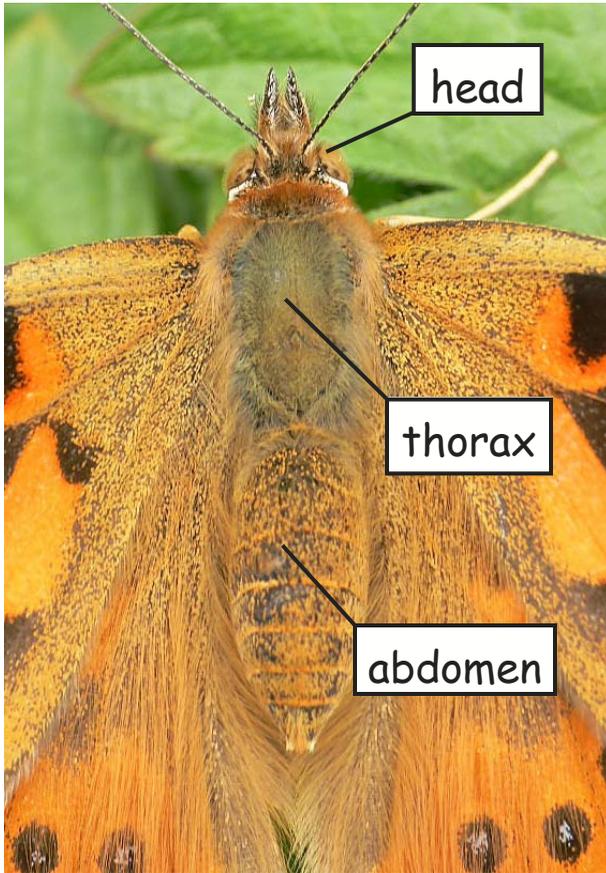
# Butterflies







A butterfly is an insect. It has six legs and four wings.



A butterfly's body has three parts.

The abdomen helps a butterfly eat, breathe, and make babies. The thorax is where the legs and wings are attached.



A butterfly's head has a mouth, two eyes and two antennae. Butterflies use their antennae to smell.



A butterfly has a long tube for a mouth that works just like a straw.

It helps the butterfly drink nectar from inside flowers.



A mother butterfly lays her eggs on plants. She chooses plants that her babies can eat for food.



Butterfly eggs only take a few days or weeks to hatch. Baby caterpillars are tiny when they are first born.



Caterpillars do nothing but eat and grow. Some grow to full size within a week. Others can take up to a year.



When the caterpillar reaches full size, it finds a safe place and attaches itself to a branch. Its skin comes off and under the old skin is a new, hard skin called a chrysalis.



Inside the chrysalis, the caterpillar is turning into a butterfly.

Sometimes this takes a week, but it can take up to eight months.



The caterpillar has changed into a butterfly! It is ready to fly away, lay more eggs and start the cycle all over again.



The Mustard Seed Books project uses an open-source, Wikipedia-type strategy, leveraging public expertise to create and refine a set of high-quality books that support early reading development. All of the books and pictures are covered by the Creative Commons License (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/> ) and are free to print, distribute, and modify for personal or educational use. The books are available at [www.mustardseedbooks.org](http://www.mustardseedbooks.org). New titles appear on a regular basis.

There is a blog post on the website so that we can receive and discuss feedback on the books. These books have been revised a number of times, but we'd love to keep improving them. Any feedback is welcome. We also welcome photos or ideas for new books.

Photos for these books come primarily from Flickr ([www.flickr.com](http://www.flickr.com)) and the Morgue File ([www.morguefile.com](http://www.morguefile.com)). Both sites are great resources for high-quality publicly accessible photos and for aspiring photographers looking to share their work. All photographs are covered by the Creative Commons License (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/> ).

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## BOOK LEVELS

**Guided Reading: I**  
**Grade Level: 1.9**

Set 3 - End of 1st Grade

**Word Count: 219**  
**Reading Recovery: 15**

Our aim with this series of books is to weave together two significant goals in the design of early reading materials—that the books are both instructional and engaging. Books designed to develop reading skills often end up feeling like work to read, while books designed to be interesting are often too difficult for beginning readers.

These books for beginning readers support phonics-based classroom instruction by including a high concentration of phonetically regular words, as well as the most commonly used sight words. However, the books are written using pictures and stories that make sense, with simple language structures supporting independent reading and language development. Our intent is to produce books that kids want to read, think about, talk about and read again.

Mustard Seed Books - 2011

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