

## Butterfly Activity Trail

Follow the flags around the course to the butterfly habitat.

How many admirals?

There are four stages in the life cycle of a butterfly: the egg, the caterpillar, the chrysalis and the adult.

Although a female butterfly may lay hundreds of eggs, only a few make it through to become adult butterflies. Many of the eggs, caterpillars and chrysalises are eaten by predators. These early life stages have a range of predators, including spiders, insects, birds and small mammals.

Follow the route to find out what happened to 100 eggs, the resulting caterpillars, chrysalises and emerging butterflies. As you go around keep a count of how many eggs, caterpillars and chrysalises are eaten and work out how many butterflies emerge.

Number of eggs eaten: .....

Number of caterpillars eaten: .....

Number of chrysalises eaten: .....

Total number eaten: .....

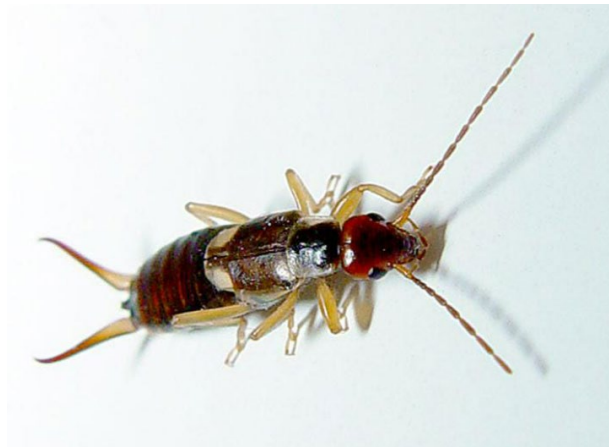
How many butterflies from the original 100 eggs emerge? .....





1. A female admiral butterfly finds a bed of nettles planted in the wild. The butterfly lays 100 eggs on the leaves of the nettle.

2. Two days later an earwig finds the eggs and eats ten of them.



3. The next day two beetles arrive and between them they eat 20 eggs.



4. A week later the eggs hatch into caterpillars and they start to eat the nettle leaves.



5. Three days after hatching a spider appears and eats ten caterpillars.



6. The caterpillars continue to eat, getting bigger and bigger. Then a wasp finds them and takes 20 to feed the young wasps.



7. As the caterpillars get bigger and bigger, their skins get too tight. As they moult their old skins, new skins are revealed underneath.



8. Now the caterpillars are fully grown. Some birds discover them and 20 are eaten.



9. The caterpillars turn into chrysalises.



10. A gecko comes along and eats ten of the chrysalises.



11. The butterflies  
emerge. How many  
are there?

