

# Explanation Writing

Explanation texts tell us  
how or why something happens.  
They describe a process and  
they also give reasons.



# Why do we write explanation texts?

We use explanation writing to help people who want to **understand a process**.

The text should answer any **how**, **why**, **when** or **where** questions that they might have.

**How?**

**Why?**

**When?**

**Where?**



# Plan your Explanation Writing

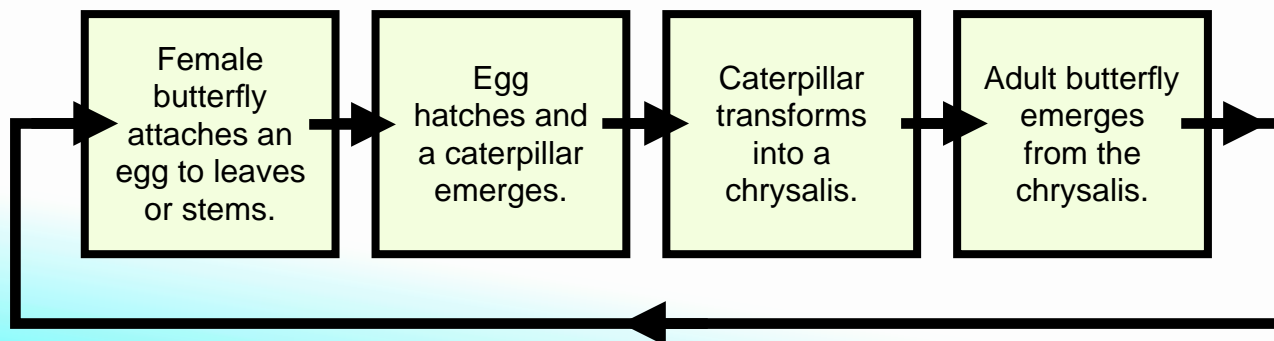
It is very difficult to write an explanation if you don't know the process well.

If you can, **watch (or try)** the process a few times (and **make notes** to help you when you writing later).



Making **flowcharts and diagrams** can also help you to plan your writing.

The stages in the life cycle of a butterfly





# Top Tips!

## Interest the reader

Add interesting facts and exclamations to make your writing interesting. Make sure that they are related to the subject of your explanation!

*The Sun is 149,600,000km from the Earth!*

*The first mechanical computer was invented in 1822. Amazing!*

## Make it relevant

Try to make the subject of your explanation writing relevant to the person reading it. You could use some of the following phrases...

*Did you know...?*

*Have you ever...?*

*What do you think about that?*

*So now you know...*

Try some of these tips to improve your explanation writing!

## Reread your writing

When you have finished writing, read your work and pretend that you know nothing about the topic. Does it make sense? Would you have any questions about the process?

If you can, ask somebody else (who knows nothing about the topic) to read your explanation. Does it answer all of their questions?



Write this explanation text...

**The life cycle  
of a butterfly.**

Write this explanation text...

**The life cycle  
of a frog.**

Write this explanation text...

**How a spider  
spins a web.**

Write this explanation text...

**Why do some  
animals hibernate?**

Write this explanation text...

**How is honey made?**

Write this explanation text...

**What is  
the water cycle?**

Write this explanation text...

**How do humans  
digest food?**

Write this explanation text...

**How do plants  
reproduce?**

# The Life Cycle of a Butterfly

*Did you know that butterflies go through a life cycle?*

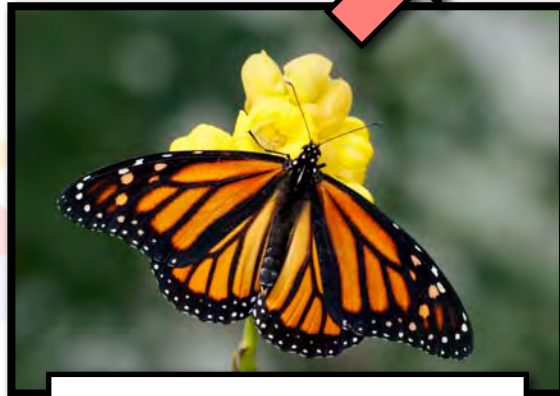
## Stage 1 - Eggs

A female butterfly attaches her eggs to plants (to help the caterpillars find food when they hatch).



## Stage 2 - Caterpillar

The caterpillar is born. It is very hungry and eats leaves and flowers. As a result, it grows really fast.



## Stage 4 - Butterfly

The chrysalis opens and a butterfly emerges.



*When you are outside, look for each stage of a butterfly's life cycle!*

## Stage 3 - Chrysalis

When the caterpillar has finished growing, it makes a chrysalis in order to protect itself while it changes into a butterfly.



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# Attention Listening



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*Mark and Helen*

