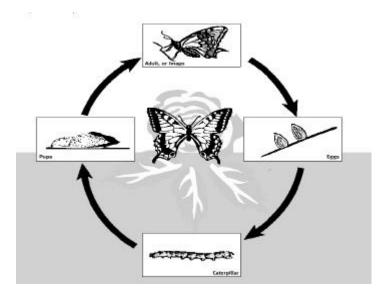
Life-cycles : The life-cycle of the locust



Insects can have different types of life-cycles, with either complete or incomplete metamorphosis.

COMPLETE METAMORPHOSIS

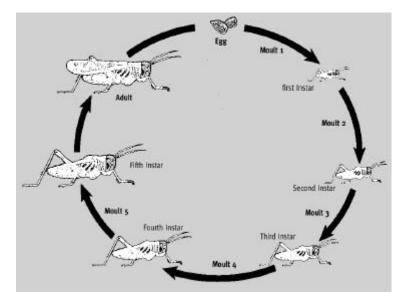
Insects like butterflies have four stages in their life-cycle. They lay an **egg** on a leaf and the egg hatches into a **larva** (or **caterpillar**) which does not look like the adult butterfly. The caterpillar grows and turns into a **pupa** (which is sometimes called a **chrysalis**). The body of the butterfly develops inside the pupa and the **adult butterfly** emerges. It then finds a mate and the cycle will start again. This is called **complete metamorphosis** because the young are different to the adult.



INCOMPLETE METAMORPHOSIS

When insects change their body shape gradually, without any sudden change, it is called incomplete metamorphosis.

This is the life-cycle of a locust, it is an example of incomplete metamorphosis.



The female locust lays her eggs in a hole in damp, warm soil or sand called a pod. She produces a frothy liquid that hardens and protects the eggs from the sun and enemies.

After about 10 days young locusts, called nymphs, emerge. They look like a smaller version of the adult but without wings, just wing buds.

As the nymphs grow they shed their skin or moult. After the fifth moult they are mature adults with fully formed wings and sexual organs.

LIFE-CYCLE FACTS !

Locust nymphs are also called hoppers, why do you think this is?

Locusts are adapted to live in hot and dry countries, their eggs are sometimes able to dry out and still hatch out when it is wet again!

When locusts moult, they hang by their legs from the branches of trees or bushes. When locusts are moulting they cannot escape if their enemies try to attack them.