

READ THE PASSAGE Stop now and then to check that you understand what you read.

From Egg to Moth

Certain animals change as they grow from an egg to an adult. Each change is called a **stage**. The animal's body looks different during each stage. Moths, for example, go through four stages of changes.

A moth begins as an **egg**. The female moth lays eggs on the leaves or stem of a plant. The leaves will become food when the eggs hatch. An egg hatches into a **larva**, or caterpillar. The hungry caterpillar eats all the time. It grows and grows. Its skin becomes too tight. A new skin grows under the old skin. The old skin splits apart and is shed, or molted. Molting happens many times as the caterpillar grows. After the caterpillar molts for the last time, it fastens itself to a twig or leaf. Then it spins a cover called a cocoon over its body. This is the **pupa** stage. Inside the cocoon, the pupa is changing into an **adult**. The adult moth wiggles out of its cocoon. Its wings unfold and dry. The moth is ready to fly away.

ALL PRACTICE Read the item. Write your response.

1. Write the main idea of this text in your own words.

2. What happens right after an egg hatches?

3. Your little brother shows you a cocoon. Explain to him what is happening.

STRATEGY PRACTICE On the line, write words or facts from the passage that confused you.
