

# School-to-Nature

## Ladybug Life Cycle

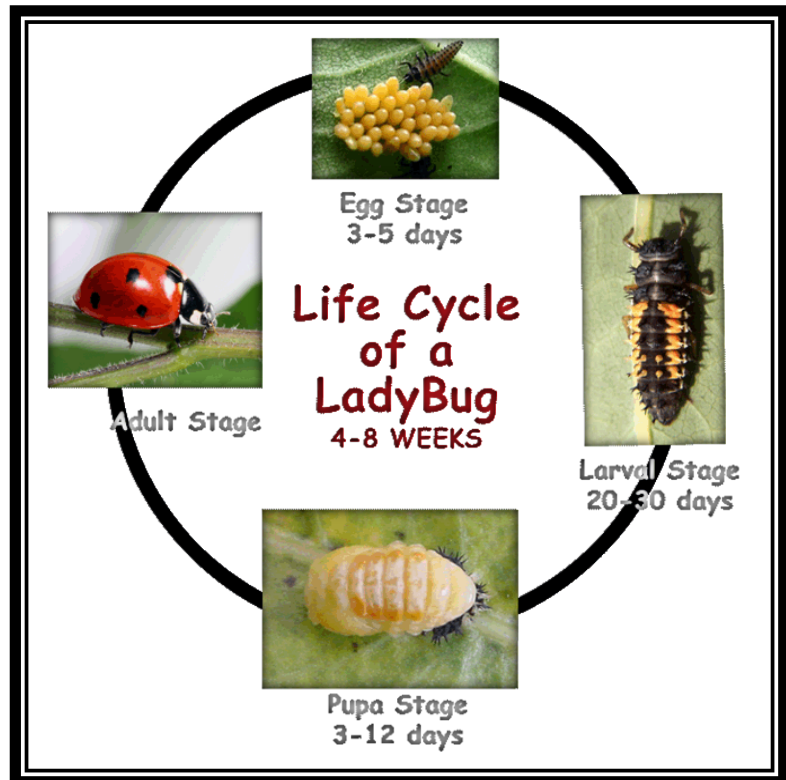
Ladybugs transform through four stages in a process called metamorphosis, in which a creature changes completely, moving through the stages of its life cycle. The ladybug life cycle includes these stages: **egg, larva, pupa, and adult**. A ladybug looks very different in each of the stages. This process can take from 4-8 weeks at a time. The model at the right shows what each stage looks like.

After mating, a ladybug lays anywhere from 5 to 50 eggs on the underside of a leaf where there are aphids or other food for

the larvae. Eggs will hatch in between three and ten days, depending on daily temperatures. Each larva will feed and grow for about a month before it enters the pupal (transforming) stage, which lasts about 15 days. After the pupal stage, the adult ladybug will live up to one year.

Ladybugs are not true “bugs” but are actually a species of beetle, with the scientific name Coccinellidae. A “Bug” feeds on plants or decaying matter with a sucking mouth part; but a Ladybug and other beetles feed on other insects as well as nectar and some decaying matter.

In Britain and some other countries, the Ladybug is called a Ladybird Beetle or a Ladybeetle; and these names are a little more accurate.



May 2022 BH/DL