

# Silkworms

Silkworms are special invertebrates. Invertebrates are animals that do not have backbones.

Silkworms have four stages of development: egg, larva, pupa, and adult. A silkworm hatches from a little egg like a caterpillar does. In its larva stage, it eats only mulberry leaves. It grows to about three inches and moves into the next stage, pupa. During the pupa stage, it spins a silk cocoon. After three weeks, it will emerge as an adult moth by burrowing a hole in its cocoon. The silk moth has a short life, about five days. Before it dies, the male silk moth will mate with a female.

Silk is made from the cocoons of the silkworm. During the process, some silkworms die. Others survive in order to have new silkworms.

1. What do silkworm larvae eat?

- A. Hay
- B. Trees
- C. Mulberry leaves

2. What does a silkworm become after it comes out of the cocoon?

- A. Adult moth
- B. Egg
- C. Larva

3. Circle TRUE or FALSE. When it is a pupa a silkworm spins a cocoon.

