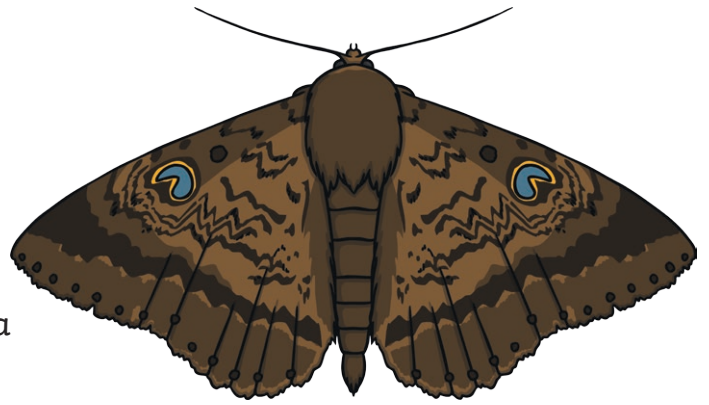


# The Life Cycle of a Moth



A moth is an insect with two antennae and a small pair of wings. Moths also have feelers.

To begin with, a female moth uses her antennae to help choose the right plant to lay her eggs on. Three weeks later, the eggs hatch and baby caterpillars come out. The baby caterpillars eat their own shell for nourishment. After they have finished eating their shell, they move on to eating leaves and other plants.

As a result, the caterpillar grows quickly. Soon, it starts to shed its skin. At between 11 and 14 weeks of age, it starts to make a pupa to live in. While the caterpillar is inside its pupa, its body changes. Eventually, the pupa case will open and a lovely moth will come out.



Adult moths flit from plant to plant, feeding and growing. All moths have two sets of wings covered in tiny scales. They grow two eyes and big eye spots on their wings so that they can scare away predators. Their antennae are very sensitive.

For the cycle to begin again, the female must lay eggs on a leaf.