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A butterfly's life cycle

Tribune staff report

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"All the great biological stories can be told by butterflies," said Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum curator Doug Taron. "They have fascinating, complex life cycles that are lessons in ecology, demonstrating their relationship to the environment and their place in predator-prey relationships." Here are the four dramatically distinct stages a butterfly experiences:

Egg: The mother butterfly glues her eggs to the undersides of plant leaves that are edible to caterpillars of the species.

Caterpillar: After hatching, the caterpillars eat their host plants until they reach their maximum size, then weave themselves into a pupa, a protective pod called a chrysalis. (With moths, they are called cocoons.)

Chrysalis: The caterpillar suspends itself upside down inside the chrysalis from a twig or a leaf on a single strand of silk. Metamorphosis transforms the caterpillar into a butterfly, a process that on average takes about two weeks.

Butterfly: The butterfly stirs, cracks the chrysalis open and desperately struggles to pull itself clear from the shell. Then it spreads its wings and is ready to fly, feed and mate.

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The advertisement features a photograph of a large, two-story house with a tiled roof and arched windows. A yellow banner on the left side of the house reads 'Open Houses Jan 24, 25'. At the bottom of the advertisement, there is a purple button with the text 'Click Here To See Our Homes' and the Zetabid logo on the right.