



Ladybird factsheet

Beetles belong to the insect family.

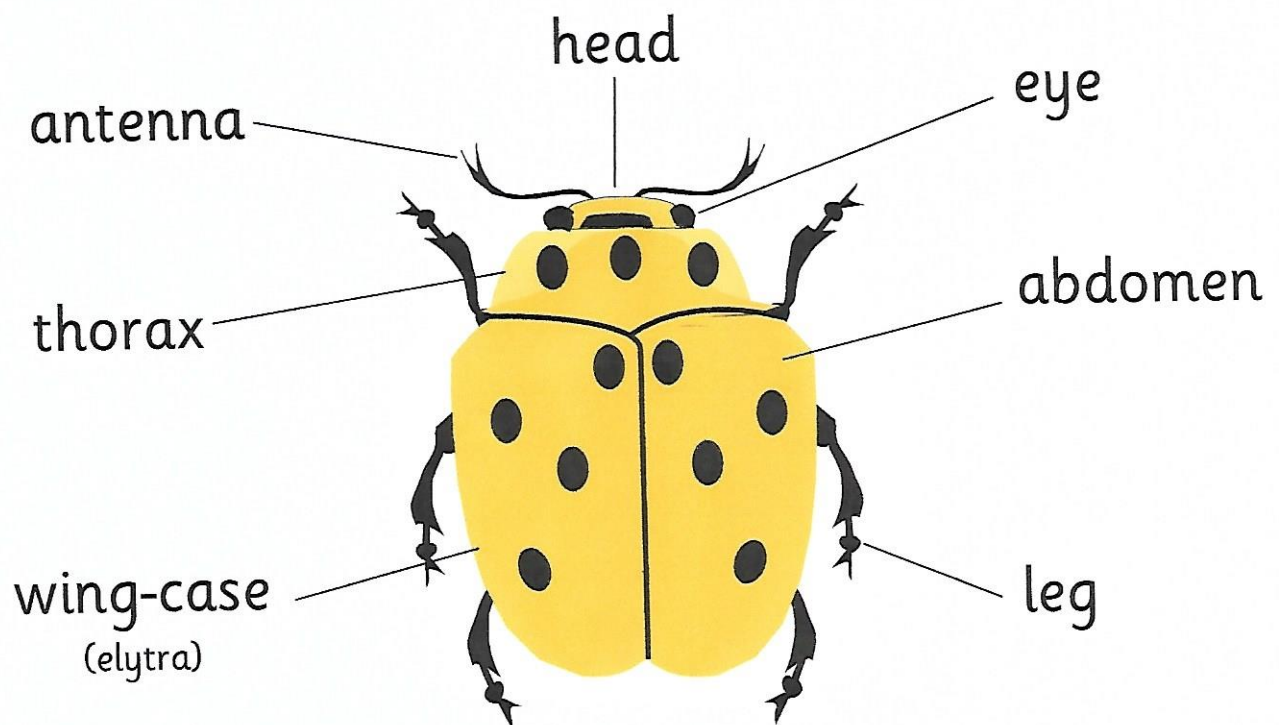
Ladybirds are small beetles.

Ladybirds can have up to 22 spots.

Ladybirds can be red or yellow or even brown.

Ladybirds can have different coloured spots.

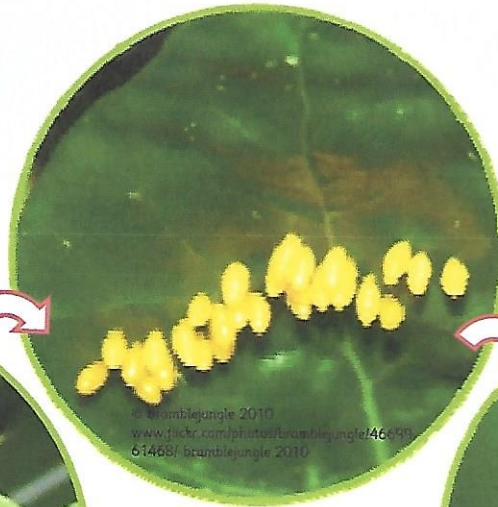
Their spots fade with age.





Ladybird lifecycle sheet

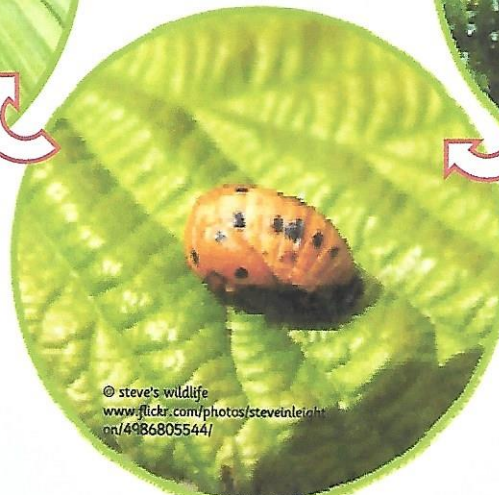
A female ladybird can lay up to 200 eggs. In the early summer she lays her eggs on a plant.



The eggs change colour and are soon ready to hatch. The shells begin to split and the young ladybirds or larvae wriggle out. All the eggs hatch at the same time.



About a week later the pupa splits open and the adult ladybird comes out.



The larvae eat their own shells and then hunt for food. They can eat about 30 aphids each day.



In about three weeks the larva is fully grown. Its skin hardens and it glues itself to a plant. The larva now becomes a pupa.

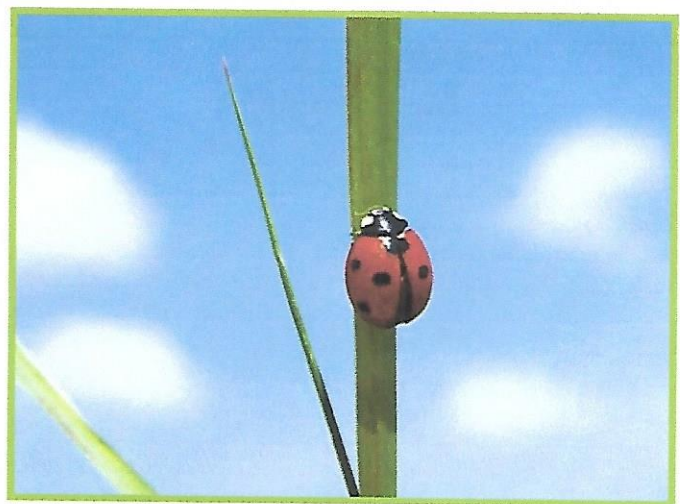
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|---------|---------------------------------------|
| Stage 1 | The ladybird lays her egg on a plant. |
| Stage 2 | The larva hatches out of the egg. |
| Stage 3 | The larva becomes a pupa. |
| Stage 4 | The ladybird comes out of the pupa. |

egg ➡ larva ➡ pupa ➡ ladybird



Amazing ladybird facts

- There are more than five thousand kinds of ladybird!
- The red colour of the ladybird and its spots are a warning to other animals that they are poisonous to eat.
- Ladybirds can 'play dead'! They roll onto their backs and squirt a yellow liquid onto their attacker!
- Americans call ladybirds 'ladybugs'.
- To stay warm in the winter, ladybirds pile on top of each other in a huddle.
- Ladybirds have a special chemical that stops them from freezing and dying in the cold.
- Gardeners like ladybirds because they get rid of pests.
- In the past some people believe that ladybirds could cure toothache!



Name: Date:



What have you learnt about ladybirds?

Use the fact sheets to help you answer the questions.

Can you name the four stages of the life cycle of a ladybird?	
What is the American name for a ladybird?	
How many different types of ladybirds are there thought to be?	
How do ladybirds protect themselves against predators?	
How many spots do ladybirds have?	
How do ladybirds stay warm in winter?	
What do some people believe that ladybirds can cure?	

Name: Date: