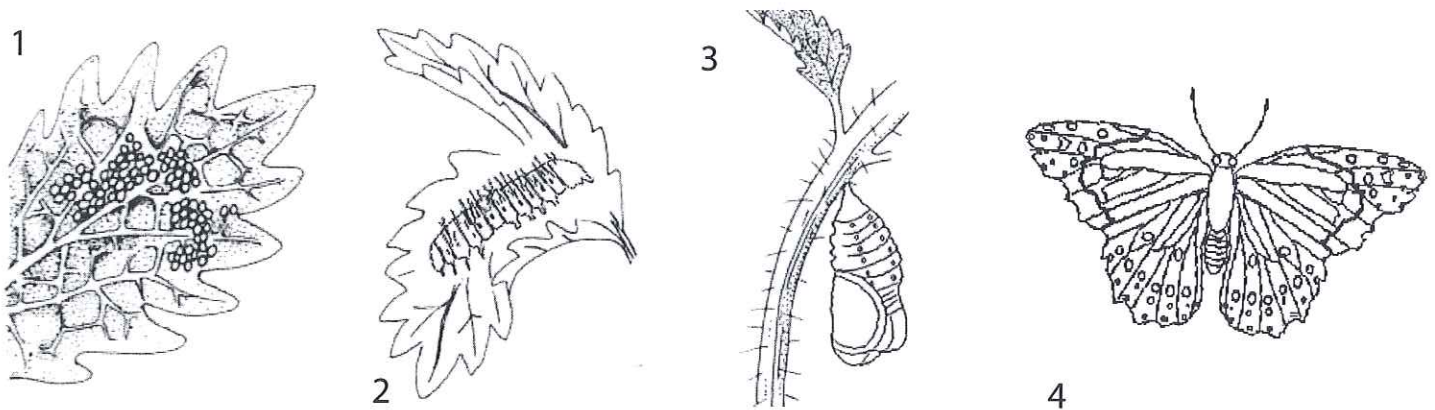


EXPLORING MEADOWS

Of all minbeasts that visit our meadows, butterflies are some of the most colourful. The life cycle of a butterfly can be divided into four main stages. Take the Painted Lady (*Cynthia Cardui*) as an example.



STAGE 1 – The butterfly lays its eggs on the underside of a thistle leaf.

STAGE 2 – The eggs develop into caterpillars which feed on the leaf.

STAGE 3 – When the caterpillar grows to a certain size, it changes into a chrysalis or pupa

STAGE 4 – After a while, the adult butterfly emerges from the chrysalis.

QUESTIONS

1. Would you expect all caterpillars to survive to become an adult?

2. What do you think a caterpillar does after eating one leaf?

3. Write down a food chain using a butterfly in your answer.

4. Find out the names of five other butterflies you can find in Ireland.
