

Butterfly: Tiger Swallowtail

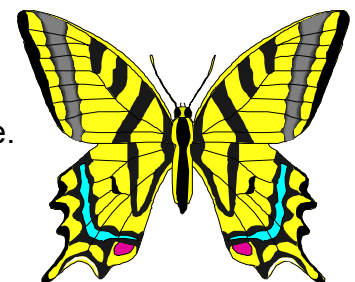


My Home: I am found throughout North America, from Canada all the way to Mexico.

What I eat: As a caterpillar, I am a very picky eater and usually will only eat leaves from the wild cherry or tulip trees. As an adult I will drink the nectar from flowers.

What I look like: My wings are 4 to 5 inches in width and 4 inches in height and are usually yellow and black striped. I have a long thin black body with two antennae.

How I am born: I will go through four stages of development: egg, caterpillar, chrysalis (cocoon), and adult (butterfly). My egg is laid on or close to a cherry or tulip tree. I hatch from the egg and become a caterpillar for a few weeks. After eating most of the time and getting bigger, I form a chrysalis (cocoon). I will emerge as a butterfly in a few weeks.



Fun Facts: The swallowtail has two wing tails that hang down at the bottom of their wings. Often, they will lose one of their wing 'tails' to a predatory bird. If they lose their wing tail portion, the swallowtail butterfly can still fly.