Giant Swallowtail Butterfly Life Cycle Activity Pack

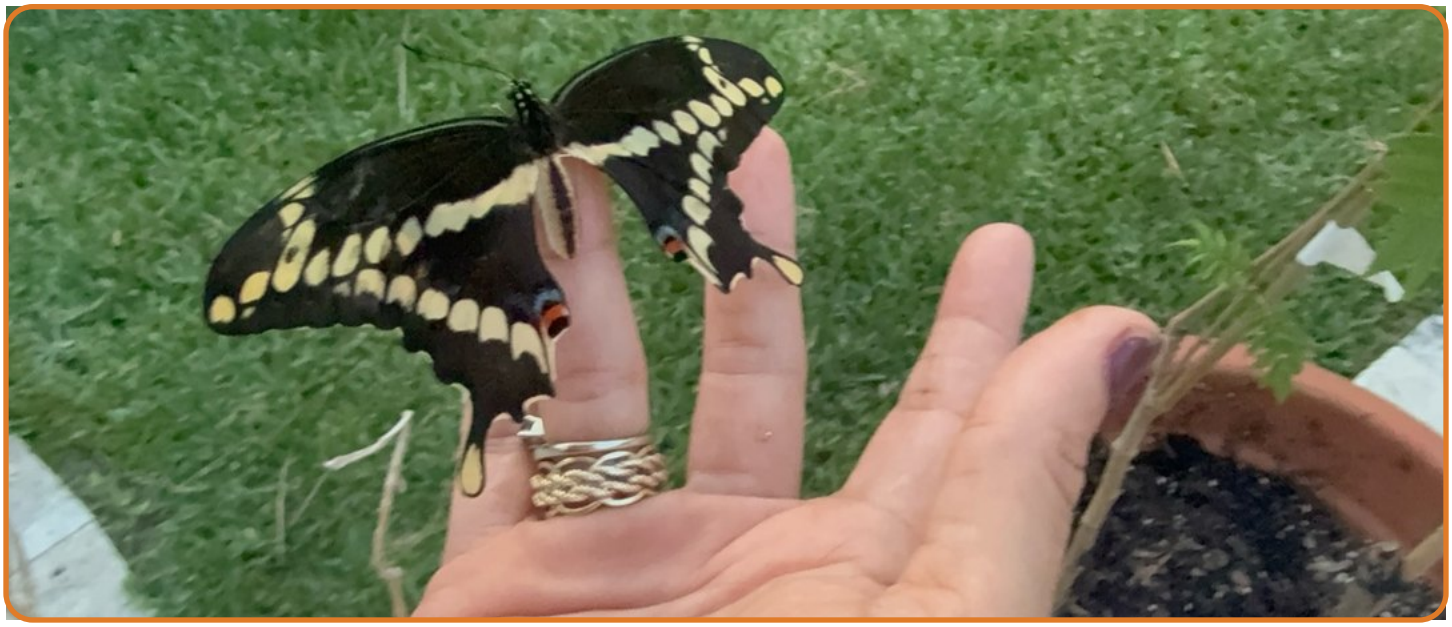


butterfly babe

butterflybabe.org

For kids ages 5–10 • Print at home, learn & play!

Meet the Giant Swallowtail!



1. The giant swallowtail is the LARGEST butterfly in North America — its wings can stretch 6 inches wide!
2. Its caterpillar is a master of disguise: it looks exactly like a bird dropping, so hungry birds leave it alone.
3. If a predator gets too close, the caterpillar pops out a stinky red forked “tongue” called an osmeterium. Phew!
4. Its chrysalis looks like a little brown twig — perfect camouflage.
5. Giant caterpillars eat plants in the citrus family — rue and citrus trees.
6. Adults sip nectar from lantana, zinnias, and goldenrod.

In the garden: Host plant: rue or citrus (giants never visited our garden until rue was planted beside the citrus trees!). Nectar: lantana, zinnias, goldenrod. Attract them: plant rue near citrus in a sunny spot.

Label the Life Cycle

Look at each photo. Write the matching word from the word bank.

1

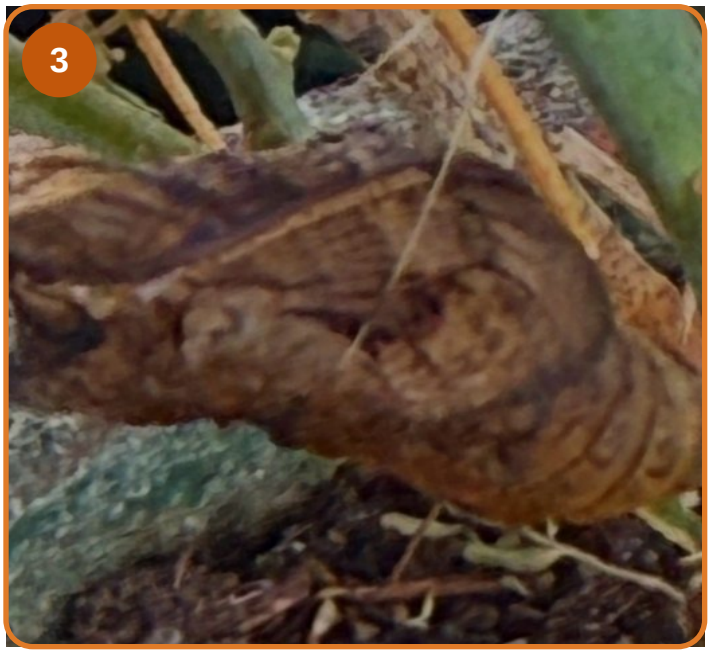
Egg photo coming soon!

YOUR MISSION: Find one in the garden, take a photo, and it could star in this pack!

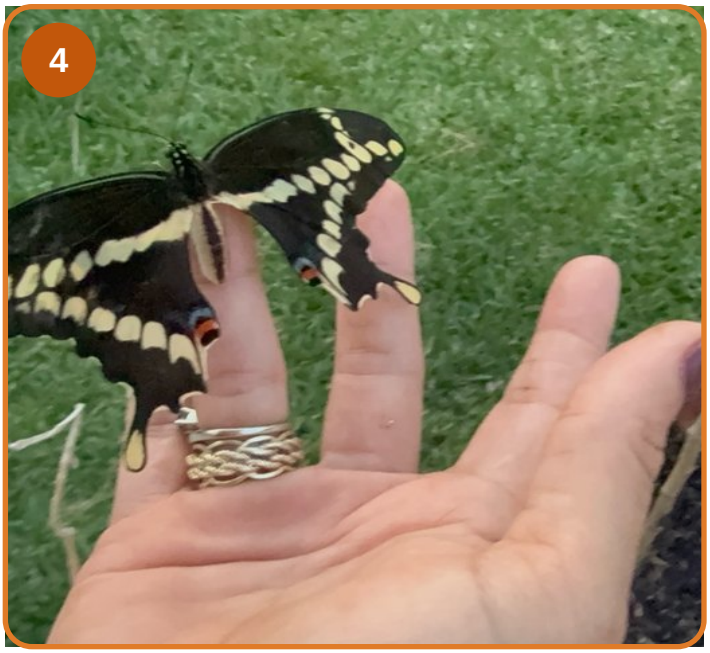
2



3



4



WORD BANK

Chrysalis | Butterfly | Egg | Caterpillar

Answer key: 1 Egg 2 Caterpillar 3 Chrysalis 4 Butterfly

Cut & Order: Sequencing Cards

Cut out the cards. Put the giant swallowtail's story in order!

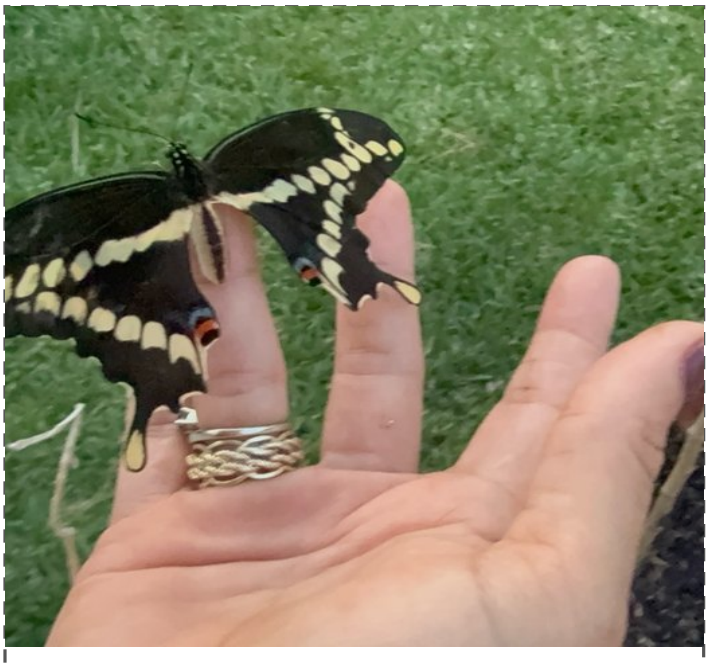


Chrysalis

Egg photo coming soon!

YOUR MISSION: Find one in the garden, take a photo, and it could star in this pack!

Egg — coming soon!



Butterfly

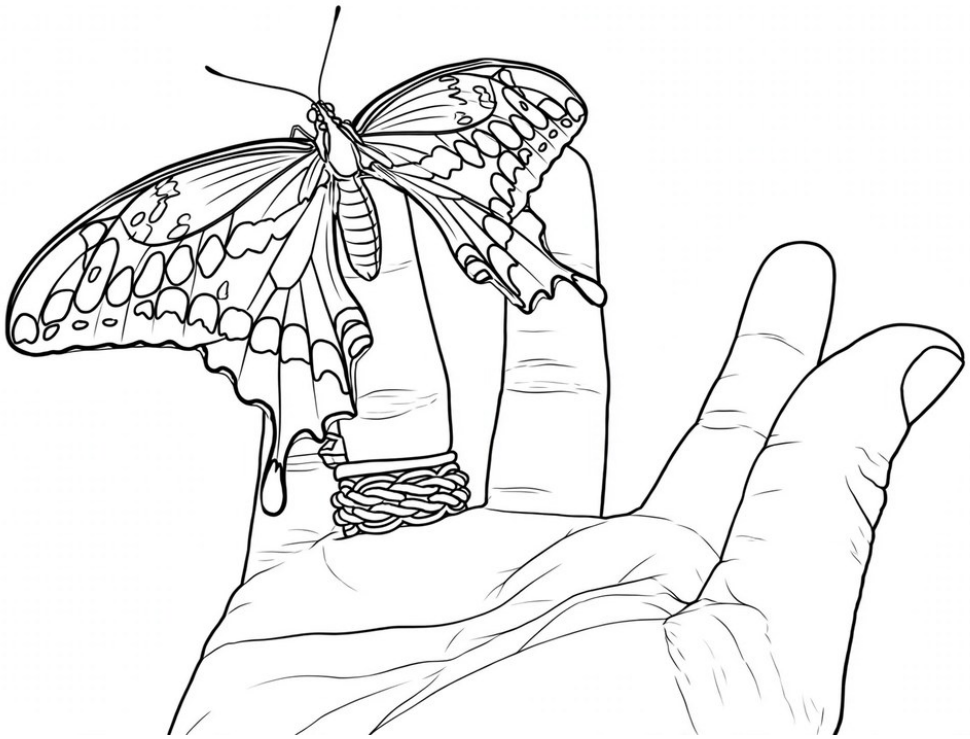


Caterpillar

× Ask a grown-up to help with the scissors! ×

Color Your Own Giant Swallowtail!

Real giants are black and yellow with long tails — but yours can be any colors you dream up.



My Butterfly Journal

Draw the butterfly you saw

Today I saw...

It was sitting on...

Its wings looked like...

One new thing I learned...