



SIMPLE SCIENCE

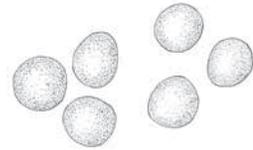
Hornworm Life Cycle



There are four stages in the life cycle of the hornworm. Can you name the four stages? Do you know how many weeks are in each stage?

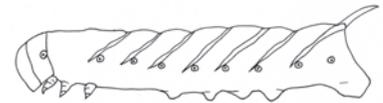
Eggs (6–8 days)

Eggs of the hornworm are deposited on both the lower and upper surface of leaves in late spring. The tiny eggs hatch in six to eight days and are oval, smooth and light green to yellow in color.



Larva (3–4 weeks)

Larvae are pale green with white and black markings. A black projection, or “horn,” on the last abdominal segment gives the caterpillar the name “hornworm.” The caterpillar reaches the final instar in 3–4 weeks, and is 3½ to 4 inches when fully mature.



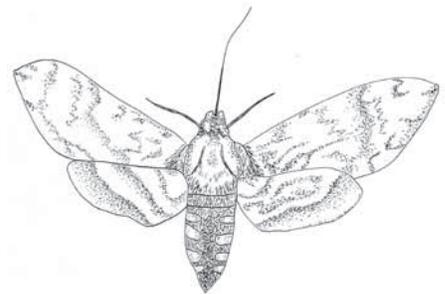
Cocoon or Pupa (2–3 weeks or all winter)

Fully grown larvae drop off the plants and burrow into the soil to pupate. During the summer months, moths will emerge from pupae in about 2 weeks. Moths emerge from the soil, mate and then begin to deposit the eggs of the next generation on food plants. By early fall, the pupae will remain in the soil all winter and emerge as moths the following spring.



Moth (10–30 days)

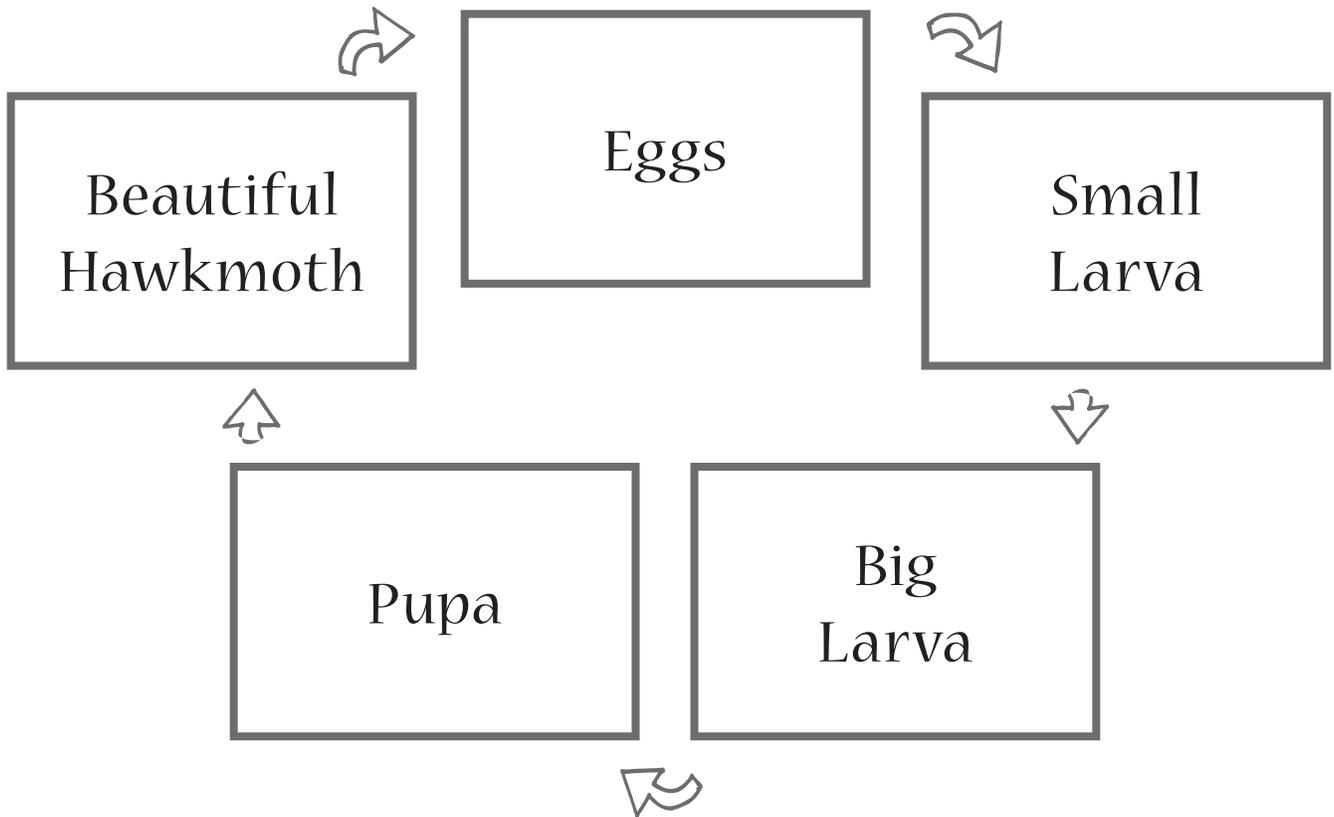
The adult moth, sometimes referred to as a “sphinx,” “hawk” or “hummingbird” moth, is a large, heavy-bodied moth with narrow front wings. The moth is a mottled gray-brown color with yellow spots on the sides of the abdomen and a wing spread of 4 to 5 inches. The hindwings have alternating light and dark bands. Adult moths can live from 10 to 30 days.





FUN STUFF Hornworm Life Cycle

Name _____



Cut out these pictures. Then paste or tape them onto the life cycle chart.
Be sure to match each picture to the correct life cycle stage, in order from egg to moth!

