

Everyone knows the shiny red beetle with the black dots. It's a common ladybug. Some ladybugs are black with red spots. Some are orange with yellow spots. Some have no spots at all. There are many kinds of ladybugs, and they are all welcome in the garden.



Male and female ladybugs mate in the spring. Then the female lays her bright yellow eggs on a leaf. In about a week a tiny larva hatches from each egg.



The larvae look nothing like adult ladybugs. The larvae are mostly black, with tiny spines and many sections, or segments. As soon as they hatch, the larvae go off searching for food.



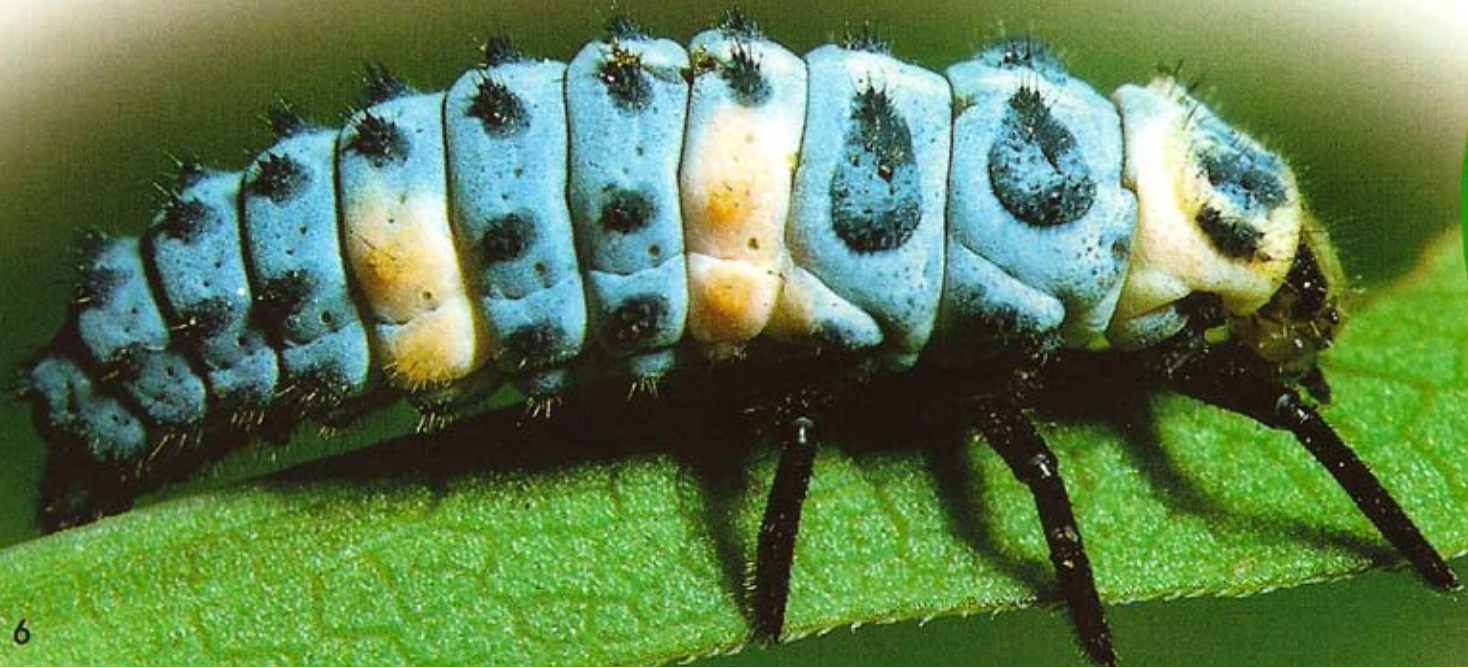
Like their parents, ladybug larvae love to eat aphids. Aphids are tiny insects that suck plant juices.

Aphids multiply quickly, and they can damage crops and garden plants. With its sharp jaws, a ladybug larva crushes an aphid's soft body. Then it sucks out the aphid's juices. One ladybug larva can eat hundreds of aphids. That is why farmers and gardeners love them so much!





The larva's body grows bigger but its skin does not. When the skin becomes too tight, the larva must molt, or shed its skin. It has a better-fitting skin underneath.



Just after molting the larva's legs are light-colored, but they soon turn black.



The larva molts three or four times before it begins the next stage in its life. Then it cements itself to a leaf and sheds its skin once more. This time there is a hard, dry case under the old skin. The larva is now a pupa. Inside the case many changes are taking place.



In about a week the case splits open and an adult ladybug crawls out. Its body is soft and moist. It is yellow, with no spots.



The adult rests as its body hardens and its colors change. The ladybug's hard front wings turn red and black. These wings lie over the ladybug's back like a shell, and they pop up when the ladybug flies off in search of aphids, its favorite food.





When cold winter weather arrives, ladybugs seek shelter. They crawl into a pile of leaves or under a moss-covered rock.

There they hibernate, or sleep through the winter, in a red-and-black heap.

When spring comes, the ladybugs will come out and look for mates. The ladybug life cycle will begin again.



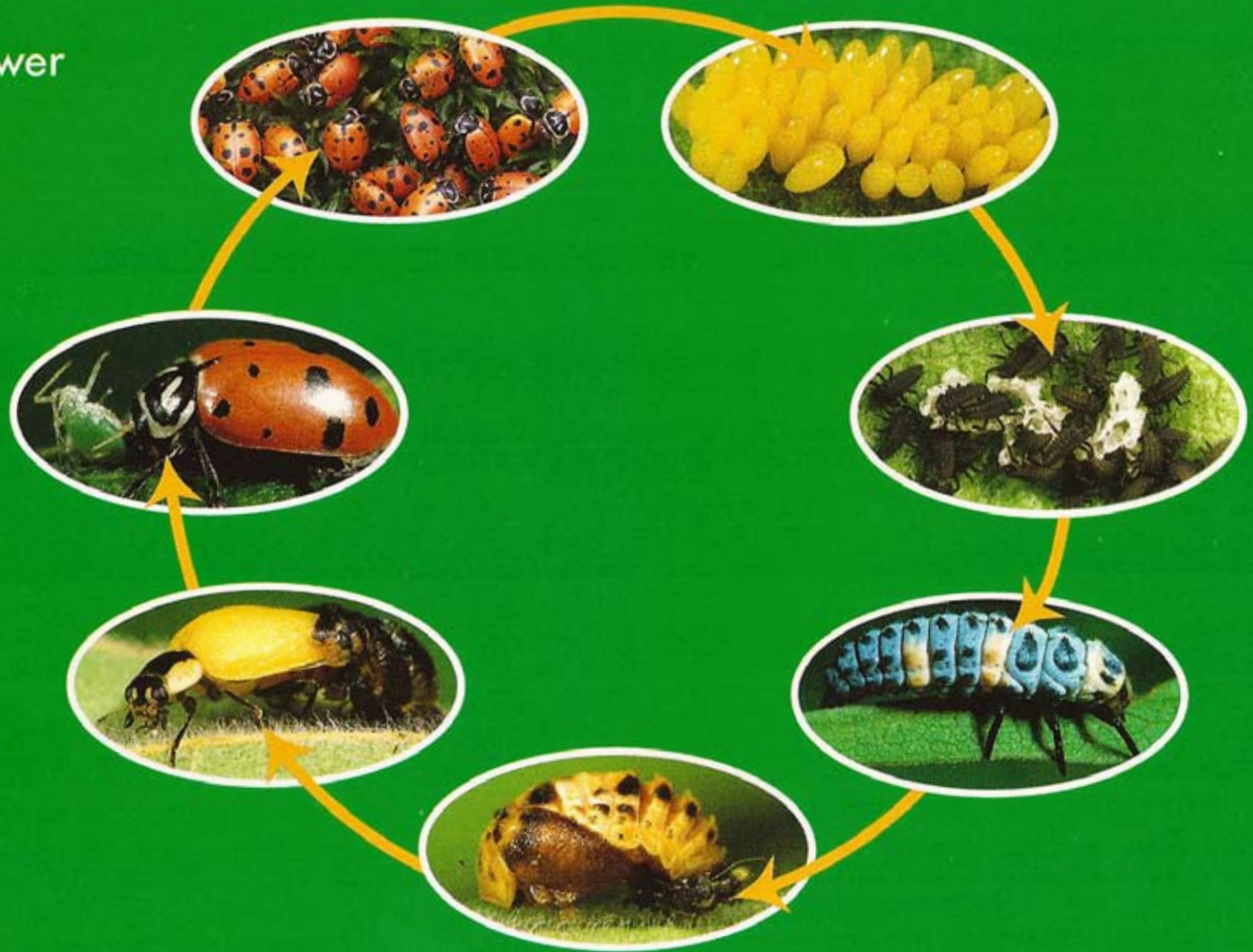


Can you put these in order?





Answer



CHOOSE FROM 12 TITLES IN THIS LIFE CYCLES SERIES!

CTP 3059 Monarch Butterfly

CTP 3060 Bean

CTP 3061 Sunflower

CTP 3062 Wood Frog

CTP 3063 Ladybug

CTP 3064 Chicken

CTP 3065 Jumping Spider

CTP 3066 Maple Tree

CTP 3067 Green Snake

CTP 3068 Hummingbird

CTP 3069 Horse

CTP 3070 Fighting Fish