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Magnificent Metamorphosis

Have you ever wondered why butterflies like to live where it is warm? Well, I have! That is what my project is about. I wanted to know if warmer or cooler climates help butterflies grow faster. I predicted that the butterflies would grow faster in a warmer climate. The purpose of my experiment was to help me understand why butterflies aren't very common in Colorado. I wanted to see if I could observe a difference in butterflies' growth rates depending on the temperature of the room (or climate) they are in. The way I did my experiment was pretty straightforward. I ordered Painted Lady larvae from the Carolina Science and Math Company. I watched the larvae grow in their food medium. When they reached the chrysalis stage, I moved them into jars and put them in three different rooms with three different temperatures. Warm climate: (attic) 26-28°C : 8-10 days Neutral climate: (kitchen) 22°C : 14-16 days Cool climate: (guest room) 16-19°C : 17-20 days I conclude that my hypothesis was correct! The chrysalises in the warmer climate emerged as butterflies first. I am keeping them in a terrarium with a mallow plant and I feed them honey water every day. This project was fun and interesting. I really enjoyed working with such beautiful creatures!