

Cut out the boxes and stick in the appropriate place on the worksheet *Butterfly life cycle/action plan* to study the needs of the Red admiral butterfly

# Can you work it out?

## Egg

### Needs:

- To be laid on plants that provide a source of food when it hatches. Common nettle is a favourite

### Needs:

- Flower-rich habitat
- Favourites include buddleia, michaelmas daisies and orchards as it will eat rotting fruit with its proboscis

## Caterpillar

### Needs:

- Sheltered, undisturbed leaf-tent (tent of folded leaves spun together with silk), usually nettle, to which the cocoon can be attached

### Needs:

- Common nettle to provide a source of food as it grows

## Butterfly

### Threats:

- Vigorous weeding
- Weedkillers

### Threats:

- Wet and windy weather that makes flying difficult
- Hard winter frosts

## Chrysalis

### Threats:

- Being dislodged from the nettle plant to which the cocoon is attached

### Threats:

- Vigorous weeding
- Weedkillers

## Red admiral

A large strong-flying butterfly (migrant).

It has brown/black wings with red bands and white spots near the tips of its forewings.

The underside is dark and mottled

### Human action needed to support the survival of this butterfly

Suggestions might include: In school grounds and home gardens, provide flowers such as buddleias and michaelmas daisies. Provide a 'wild' area where nettles can grow (this will need to be where there is no risk of being stung by the plant, or in a sheltered area). Avoid the use of weedkillers and avoid disturbing the caterpillar or cocoon/chrysalis if spotted on a nettle plant.