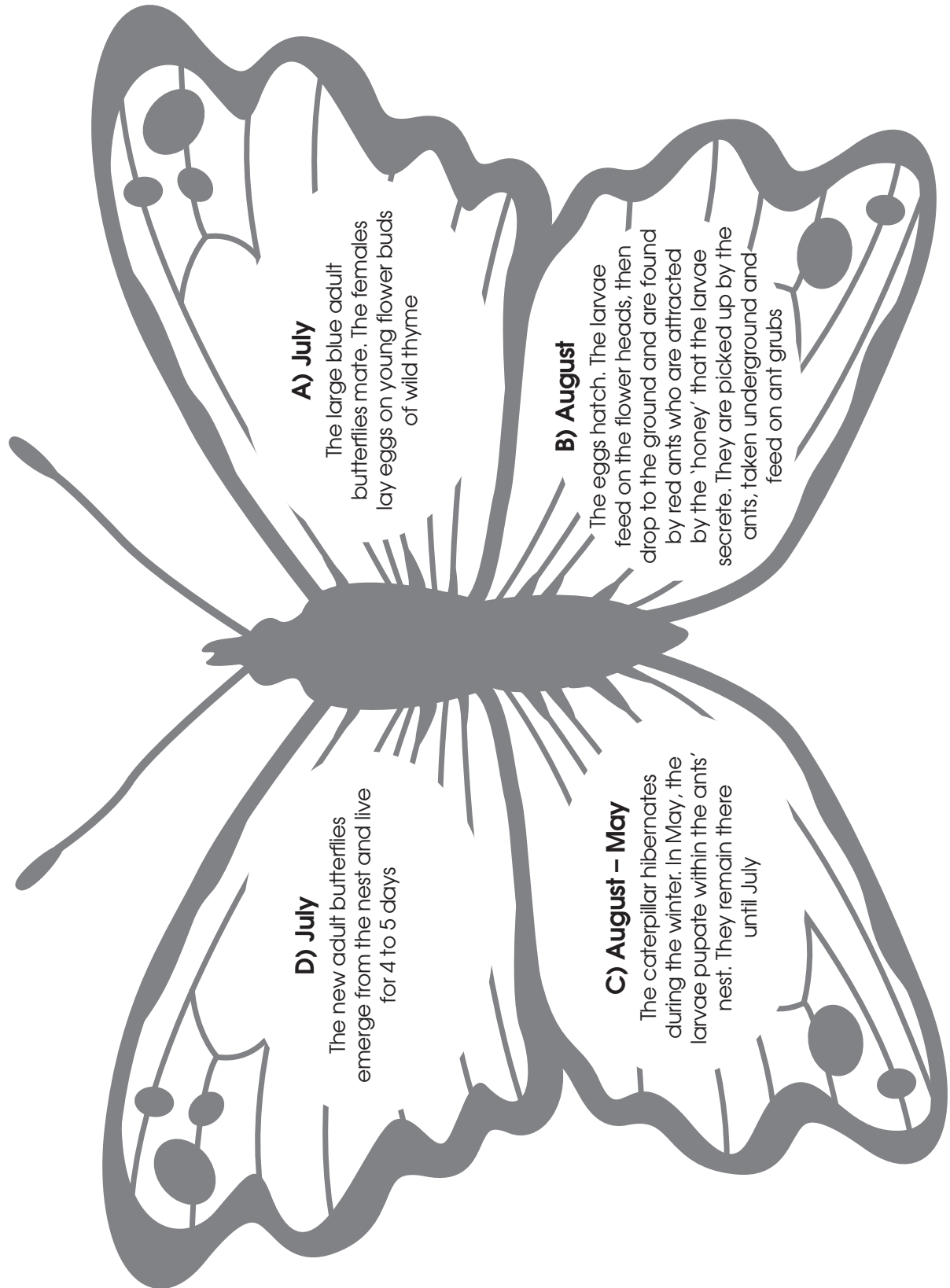


Metamorphosis of the large blue butterfly (1)



A) July

The large blue adult butterflies mate. The females lay eggs on young flower buds of wild thyme

B) August

The eggs hatch. The larvae feed on the flower heads, then drop to the ground and are found by red ants who are attracted by the 'honey' that the larvae secrete. They are picked up by the ants, taken underground and feed on ant grubs

D) July

The new adult butterflies emerge from the nest and live for 4 to 5 days

C) August – May

The caterpillar hibernates during the winter. In May, the larvae pupate within the ants' nest. They remain there until July

Metamorphosis of the large blue butterfly (2)

factsheet



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