To feed the adults, prepare a 5% solution of household sugar water (1 part sugar to 20 parts water). Pour the solution into a shallow dish and put in some cotton balls or pieces of paper toweling to act as wicks. Change the solution every 2 days to prevent spoilage. Gatorade may also be used undiluted.

Provide plants or crumpled facial tissues on which the female butterflies may lay their eggs. Observe daily for butterfly mating and egg-laying behavior.



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Painted Lady Butterfly Vanessa cardui

Open lid, look inside cup.
You should see 5-7 caterpillars.
It is normal not to see any movement in the first 24 hours as they settle down from their trip.

IMPORTANT

Put the paper and lid back on securely and leave on until caterpillars form chrysalis. 6-12 days approximately.

 When all caterpillars have formed chrysalis, remove plastic lid and paper with chrysalis attached and hang in your butterfly house.