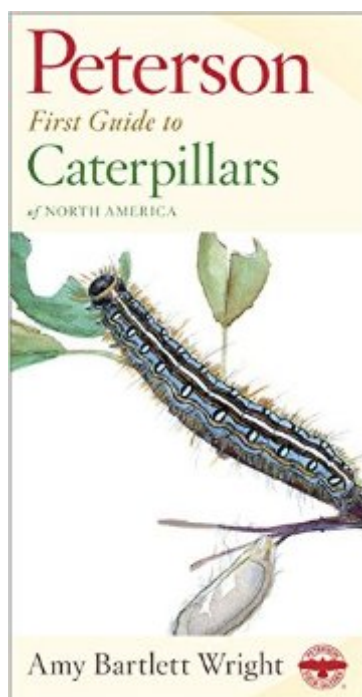


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# Peterson First Guide To Caterpillars Of North America



## Synopsis

Here is the first and only guide to a subject of great interest to gardeners, small children, and lepidopterists: caterpillars, the immature form of butterflies and moths. This guide describes 120 common species of these fuzzy creatures. All the caterpillars, their adult forms and many of their host plants are illustrated.

## Book Information

Series: Peterson First Guide

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Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (56 customer reviews)

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Age Range: 11 and up

Grade Level: 5 - 7

## Customer Reviews

If you've been looking for a book to help you identify caterpillars, you may have noticed that field guides for butterflies and moths are nearly useless in this regard. Entomologists don't seem to be nearly as fascinated with the larvae of these creatures as they are with the adults. But this is the guide you've been looking for! Although the First Guides are written for children, this book is suitable for adults as well and is by no means remedial. The book is made to take along at 3 3/4x7 1/4 inches in size and 128 pages long. It begins with an introduction to caterpillars which explains their structure, life cycle, protective mechanisms, and gives brief instructions for attracting and caring for caterpillars. This is followed by pictures and descriptions of 120 caterpillars. Each caterpillar is clearly illustrated for easy identification. Illustrations of the adult moths and butterflies are included, so you will know what the little critter will turn into. (All illustrations are drawings.) There is a

description of each caterpillar which includes details of its appearance, size, diet, and where it is found. A few caterpillars that are dangerous to handle are marked with don't-handle signs. (They won't kill you; they cause skin irritation, pain, and rashes, at worst.) Recommended for everyone who would like to know just what those caterpillars are and what they will become. A great gift for kids who like the outdoors. The book's only real shortcoming is that it is not comprehensive. We can always hope that the publisher will add more species in a later edition. In the meantime, this guide will enable you to identify most common species of caterpillar.

Although this is supposed to be a children's book, the reference material on caterpillars is far more comprehensive than any adult book on the market, including the food plants of each species and illustrations of each caterpillar, its butterfly or moth stage, and often the egg and the chrysalis, as well. 120 species are included.

As far as I know, this is the only caterpillar book available. We use it at our nature center on a daily basis. Not only does it have excellent illustrations, but it also lists the various host plants of each caterpillar. Next time a child brings you a caterpillar you can ID it and tell the child what it will need to eat to become a moth or butterfly. We couldn't live without it!

This is a good book for beginning naturalists, including kids. The book covers 120 common North American species of caterpillars and their moths or butterflies. It includes helpful info regarding the host plant(s), life stages of each species, and identifies the regions of the U.S. in which they are most commonly found. There are no photos, however, the colorful illustrations work well. One disappointing aspect of the book is its breadth and depth. I would have liked to have seen more species included for the area covered (the United States). Some areas of the country (northwest, west, and southwest) are underrepresented in the book's coverage of species. The book seems to have a better coverage of eastern species.

This is a fine concept, completely unrealized. I bought it for grandchildren, but it would insult their intelligence. Authors picked out a very few species of charismatic, or at least colorful caterpillars, and left it at that. They did not bother to mention that only two or three of these stars occur throughout the US. Nor do they bother mentioning that 3/4 of all caterpillars will become moths, not butterflies. Nothing useful about how to look for caterpillars. Peterson Guides should have hired someone who cared about caterpillars and kids at least a little.

Our 6-year old daughter is a budding entomologist, and has been fascinated with butterflies in particular for the last two years. Each spring she has a great time running around our garden collecting caterpillars and raising them into butterflies. The problem we always had was how to identify them before they actually became butterflies...Well, this book is a great help in that respect. It lays out the various broad categories of caterpillars in order to simplify identification. A very nice feature is that it also often includes information on the plant species that both the caterpillar and the adult butterfly feed upon. Also, a great small size - perfect as a "field guide". We keep a copy in the glove box of our VW camper so that it is always handy on family outings.

This is a good little book, although not terribly comprehensive. But considering the fact that there are hardly any field guides on the market relating to butterfly and moth larvae identification, I give this book a thumbs up! Illustrations and information is very helpful and accurate.

The perfect caterpillar book for the basic caterpillars you'll find. A great starter book, and then once you know more you can get a more complete reference, but surely start with this one so you aren't overwhelmed by everything that's out there. I recommend it whenever I give a presentation on butterflies/moths/caterpillars.

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