

# British Nature Guide

## How much do you know about ladybirds?



Sometimes ladybirds are called ladybugs, but they are not birds or bugs. In fact they are beetles.

Ladybirds have six legs and they are a kind of insect.

Adult ladybirds have two wings, folded away under their shells.

Not all Ladybirds are red with black spots, some are black with red spots. Others are yellow with black spots, and others are orange with white spots.

Most ladybirds eat Aphids, these are smaller insects which live on plants.

In the winter ladybirds find a warm dry place to hibernate until spring.

In the spring adult Ladybirds come out of hibernation and lay small yellow eggs, each of the eggs hatches into a larva which looks nothing like an adult. The larva feeds on aphids, just like the adult. A few weeks later when it is fully grown the larva turns into a pupa. A few weeks later an adult emerges from the pupa.

Below you can see pictures of these four stages of the Ladybird's life cycle.

eggs



larva



pupa



adult

