

# MEET THE CATERPILLARS!

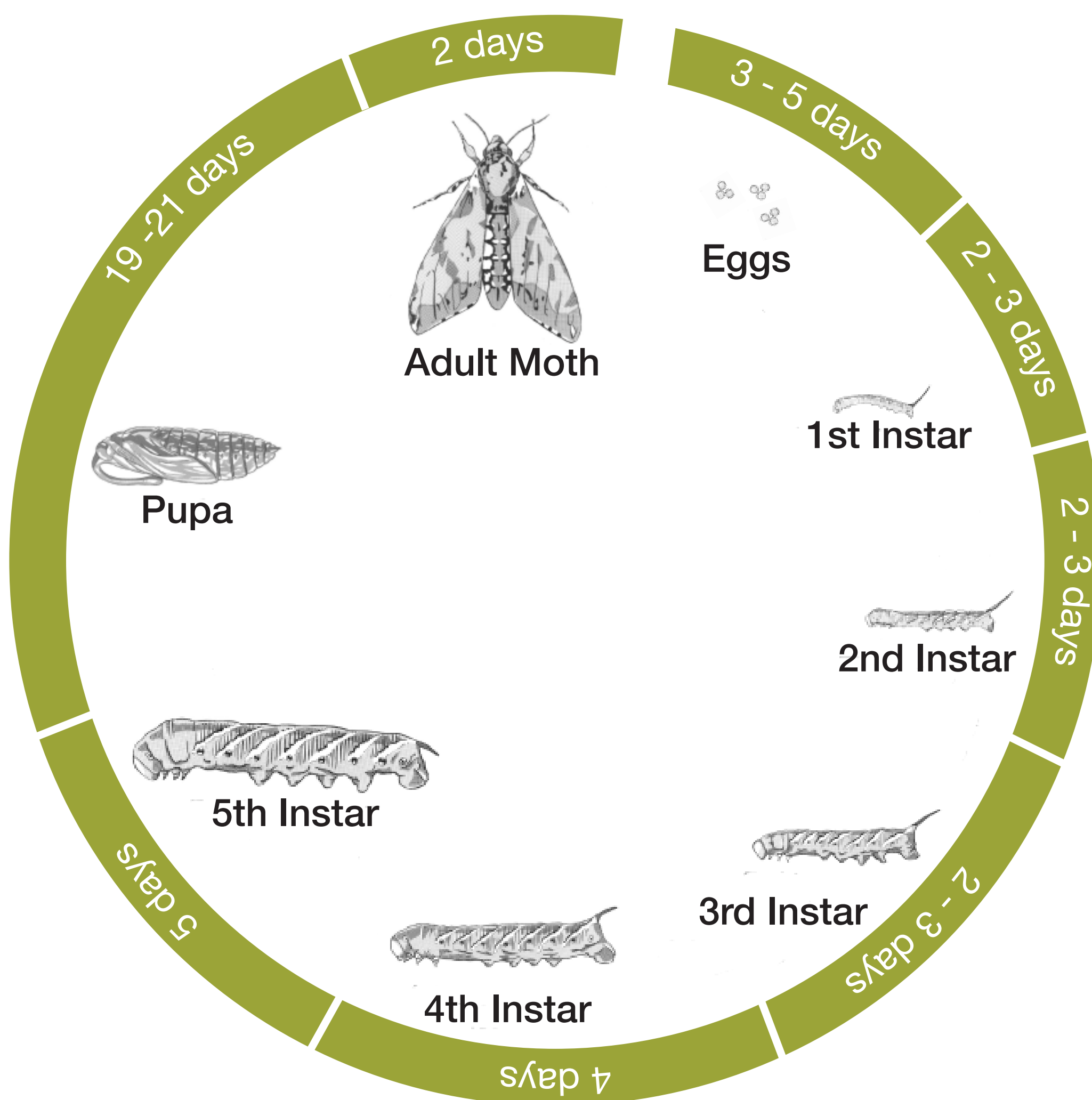
## The Tobacco Hornworm

These caterpillars are tobacco hornworms (scientific name: *Manduca sexta*). They have evolved to live in warm climates like **North Carolina**. They feed on **tomato** and **tobacco** plants. Have you seen them in your garden?



## Manduca Life Cycle:

*Manduca* are **holometabolic** insects. This means that they completely transform 3 times in their lives. First from an egg to a larva or caterpillar, then from a caterpillar to a pupa, and finally from a pupa to an adult moth. While they are caterpillars, they **molt** (shed their skin) 4 times. What proportion of its life does a *Manduca* spend as a caterpillar? A pupa? An adult? Is this different than what you expected?



## Manduca Anatomy:

*Manduca* caterpillars have 6 legs like all insects, but they have 8 special **prolegs** to support their long bodies. They also have special breathing holes called **spiracles** along their sides. What do you think their spiny **horn** is for?

