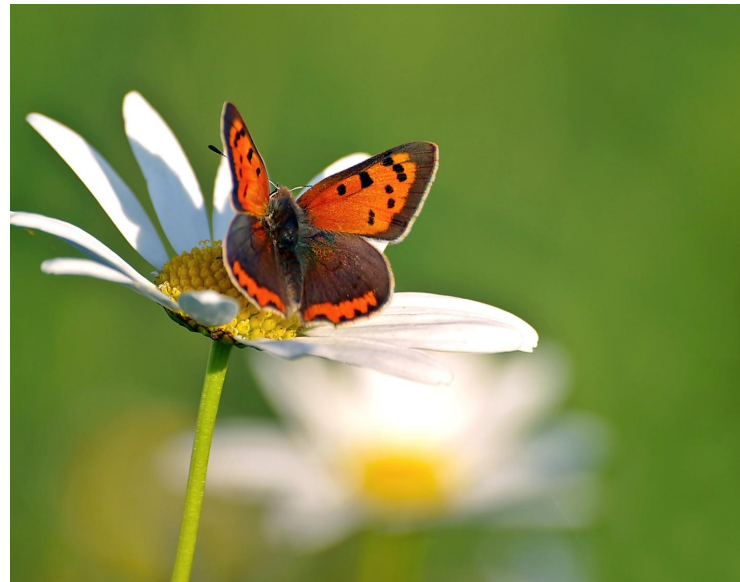
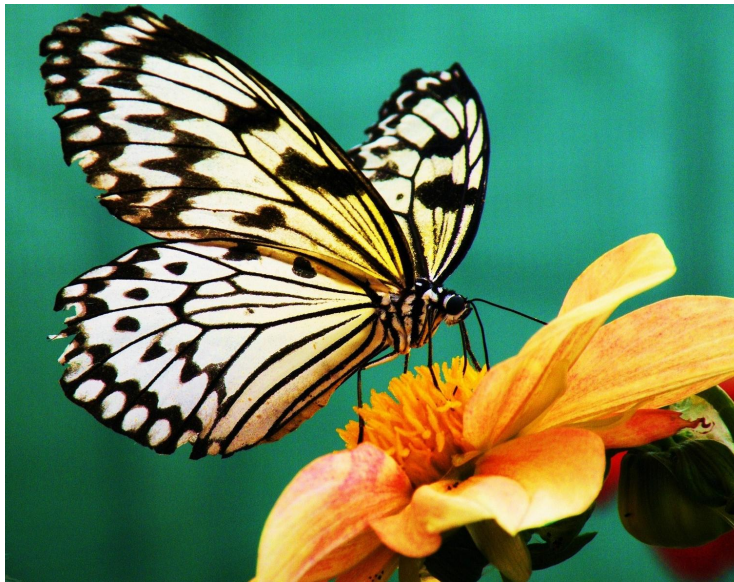




Butterfly

Picture It!

Check out these pictures of butterflies and their habitat!



Butterfly

What's the gist?

- Butterflies are insects.
- They are sometimes referred to as “flying flowers,” with many species having very colorful wings.
- They belong to the order Lepidoptera. The name Lepidoptera (which includes butterflies and moths) means "scale wing" in Greek.
- A scientist who studies butterflies is called a “Lepidopterist.”
- The world’s largest butterfly is the Queen Alexandra’s Birdwing. It has a wingspan of about 11 inches and is native to Papua New Guinea.
- The world’s smallest butterfly is the Western Pygmy Blue, with a wingspan of 0.5 to 0.75 inch and is native to the western United States.
- Butterflies have a pair of club shaped antennae that function like the taste buds on our tongues. They are also used for balance and orientation during flight.
- Butterflies have 3 pairs of legs. The legs are important for the butterfly to smell and taste.
- A female butterfly can determine if a plant is suitable to lay eggs on using structures called “receptors” located on their legs that tell information about the plant.
- Butterflies have compound eyes that provide them with almost 360 degree vision. They can see everything at the same time, so can sip nectar from the flowers in front of them, and at the same time detect threats from behind.
- They sip nectar using a straw-like mouthpart called a “proboscis.”
- The life cycle of butterflies is amazing! Butterflies undergo a “complete metamorphosis.” And for most butterflies, that occurs within a month’s time!
- The female butterfly lays her eggs on the leaves of a specific plant(s) called the “host plant.” For the monarch butterfly, the host plant is milkweed.
- A butterfly can lay hundreds of eggs. After several days, the eggs hatch and the caterpillar or larva will eat the milkweed leaves for about 2 weeks. The caterpillar will then attach itself head down to a twig or other structure and shed its outer skin and pupates, (forms a “chrysalis”). After about two weeks, the butterfly emerges from the chrysalis.
- The butterfly unfolds its wings and pumps life fluid into its veins. The wings stiffen and dry before it flies away which takes about 3 hours to do.

Learning Links

Take a look at these materials to further your experience!

Read a story, Listen to a story, Take a tour here: <https://bit.ly/30v3yAQ>

Life Cycle of a Butterfly: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O1S8WzwLPIM>

Children Learn About Butterflies: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FUEeu4moxzM>

How a Caterpillar Becomes a Butterfly: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V5RSpMQQOpw>

The Very Hungry Caterpillar Story by Eric Carle: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=75NQG-Sm1YY>

Monarch Butterfly Migration: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QpffQtKN-gk>

Painted Lady Butterfly Migration: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2DYVIGygED8>

North American Butterfly Association: <https://www.naba.org/>

Monarch Watch: <https://monarchwatch.org/>

Common Butterflies Found in the Pollinator Garden by Sarah Rayner: <https://www.lsu.edu/botanic-gardens/research/CommonButterfliesFoundinthePollinatorGarden.pdf>

Louisiana Native Pollinator Trees Dr. Chrissy Mogren: <https://www.lsu.edu/botanic-gardens/research/Burden-Pollinator-Trees.pdf>

Activity Corner

Check out these awesome activities for an enriching learning experience!

How to Draw a Monarch Butterfly:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NLWNOafqfh0>

Coloring Page of Monarch Butterfly:

https://www.kidzone.ws/animals/monarch_color.htm

Butterfly Life Cycle Craft:

<https://www.dltk-kids.com/crafts/insects/mlifecycle-butterfly.htm> H

How to Make a 3-D Butterfly Craft:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wiexx50ADWA>

Life Cycle of a Monarch Butterfly Coloring Sheet:

<https://www.kidzone.ws/animals/monarchlifecycle.htm>

Easy Word Search Butterflies:

<http://www.greatlittleminds.com/pages/word-search/butterfly-word-search.html>

How to Make a Butterfly:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r7_TTS86G_4 How to Create a Butterfly Garden: <https://nababutterfly.com/start-butterfly-garden/>