

Butterflies and Moths

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PM

Butterflies and Moths

Level 22

Running Words 763 Text Type Information Report

Curriculum Areas English (Literacy, Literature, Language); Science (Biological Sciences); Humanities (Geography)

Retelling to Encourage Critical Thinking About the Content

Ask each student to retell the information report in their own words. Record the retelling for further discussion and reflection.

Questions to Reinforce Meaning and Stimulate Discussion

Literal

- 1 How are the wings of butterflies and moths different?
- 2 What is the largest butterfly in the world?
- 3 Which animals eat butterflies and moths?

Inferential

- 4 How does the dull colour of moths help them when they are active at night?
- 5 Why do caterpillars make a hard case around their bodies when changing into a butterfly or moth?
- 6 Why do butterflies and moths live where there are lots of plants?
- 7 Why is it important for caterpillars to eat a lot of food?
- 8 How do you think the zebra swallowtail butterfly got its name?

Applied Knowledge

- 9 What are some other insects that use camouflage?
- 10 What would happen if butterflies and moths died out?

Links with Other PM Guided Reading Books

Level 22	Information Report	<i>Bees and Wasps</i>
Level 22	Information Report	<i>Flies and Mosquitoes</i>
Level 22	Information Report	<i>Bugs</i>
Level 22	Information Report	<i>Grasshoppers and Crickets</i>
Level 22	Information Report	<i>Beetles</i>



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What Are Butterflies and Moths?

Butterflies and moths are flying insects.

They are alike in several ways, but they have some differences.

These creatures all have four wings.

Butterflies' wings are usually bright and colourful.

Most moths have dull grey or brown wings.



butterfly



moth

When butterflies are resting, they hold their wings up above their backs. Moths spread their wings out flat when they rest.

Butterflies are active during the daytime, while most moths are active at night.



butterfly



moth

Butterflies and moths have three main body parts: the head, the thorax and the abdomen.

They have six legs, two **antennae** (say: *an-ten-ee*) and two **compound eyes**.

Most butterflies and moths have long, hollow tongues, which they keep rolled up under their heads.

Their wings are covered in tiny scales.

The scales can be very colourful.

The different colours make patterns on the wings.

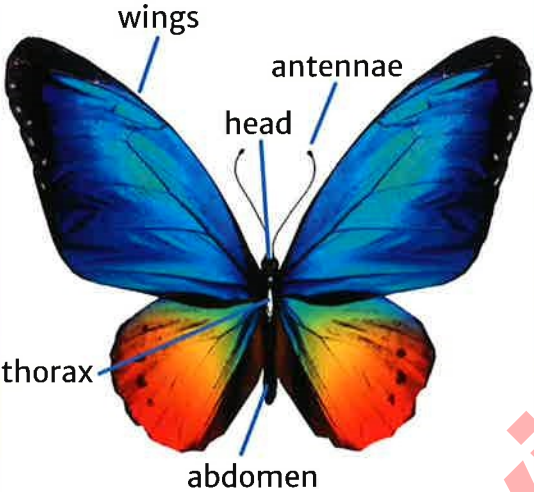
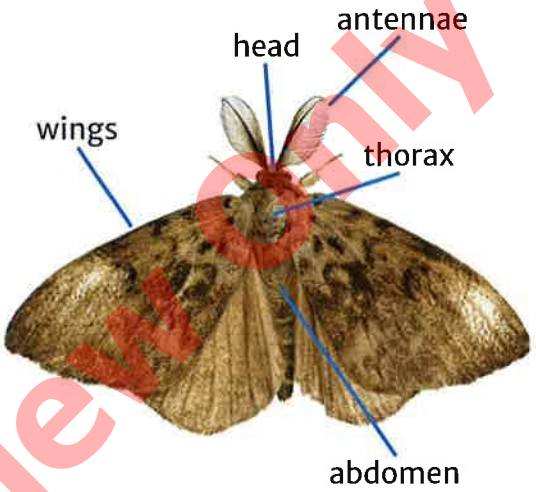


This butterfly has its tongue rolled up under its head.



Tiny scales on the wings of a butterfly make patterns.

Differences Between Butterflies and Moths

Butterflies	Moths
 <p>A diagram of a butterfly with its wings spread. The wings are blue on top and orange with black spots on the bottom. Labels with blue lines point to the wings, antennae, head, thorax, and abdomen.</p>	 <p>A diagram of a moth with its wings flat. The wings are brown and speckled. Labels with blue lines point to the antennae, head, wings, thorax, and abdomen.</p>
active during the day	mostly active at night
bright, colourful wings	dull brown or grey wings
wings upright and together when resting	wings flat when resting
thin antennae with a tiny bump on each end	feathery antennae
thin body	thick body

The Life Cycle of Butterflies and Moths

Butterflies and moths have the same life cycle.

There are four **stages** in the cycle.

The females lay their eggs on plants.

Soon afterwards, tiny caterpillars hatch from the eggs and feast on the plants.

When a caterpillar has eaten enough food, it makes a hard case around its body.

This case is called a pupa (say: *pyoo-pa*).

Inside the pupa, the caterpillar changes into a butterfly or moth.

A butterfly pupa is also called a chrysalis (say: *criss-a-liss*).



The Life Cycle of a Painted Lady Butterfly

