



ANIMALS FACT SHEET

Butterflies

Butterfly life cycle:

Butterflies start life as a caterpillar hatched from an egg, the caterpillar will increase in size by over 27,000 times its original size before making a cocoon where it will live and turn into a butterfly. Most butterflies have a short lifespan of 4-6 weeks, the longest living butterflies are found in the tropics where they can live for up to one year.

Where do they live:

Butterflies live all over the world except for extreme hot or cold parts of the world such as the North or South Pole or the dry hot deserts. They are most abundant in the tropics where there is a lot of their natural food and fauna to hide in.

What do they eat:

All butterflies eat liquid, some eat nectar from flowers, some sap from trees and others will eat juice from rotting fruit on the ground. Butterflies taste by standing on their food as their taste buds are in their feet. Butterflies are a useful animal for moving pollen from flower to flower to assist the flower growing into fruit, butterflies do not eat plants so they will not harm your plants.

How do they move around:

Most of butterfly movement is flying from plants to plant looking for food. They have wings that are made up from many tiny scales, this makes butterflies very delicate to handle. Butterflies also have 6 legs to stand on and grip plants with while eating.

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What is the difference between a Moth and Butterfly?

The difference between a butterfly and a moth is that moths have mouths and butterflies have long tongues for eating called a proboscis. Also Butterflies rest with their wings upright while moths rest with their wings down. Most butterflies are active during the day while most moths are active at night.

Butterfly Garden:

Butterflies love eating nectar, some plants that will attract them are Buddleia, Sunflowers, Marigolds, Salvias and foxgloves, This is only half the challenge though as you will need to give butterflies somewhere to lay their eggs and caterpillars will eat easily also will make your home a garden a colourful ecosystem for butterflies.

Next time you see a caterpillar eating a leaf before trying to get rid of it for eating your plants think about what it will turn into in the next few weeks and how beautiful your garden will be with butterflies flying around.