

Fun Butterfly Facts



- Butterflies are insects. Their often brightly-colored wings are made up of tiny scales.
- Butterflies help to pollinate many of the plants that produce the food we eat.
- A butterfly's lifecycle is made up of four stages: egg, larva (caterpillar), pupa (chrysalis) and adult (butterfly).
- Butterflies attach their eggs to leaves or twigs with a special glue.
- Fully grown caterpillars attach themselves to a leaf or stem before shedding their outside layer of skin to reveal a hard skin underneath, known as a *chrysalis*.
- An adult butterfly will eventually emerge from the chrysalis. After a few hours its wings will dry and it will fly for the first time.
- Butterflies can live in the adult stage from a week to a year, depending on the species.
- Butterflies feed on nectar from flowers. They have taste receptors on their feet.
- Monarch butterflies (*pictured above*) are known for their long migration to Mexico. It will take several generations to complete the journey back to where they started.

How you can help:

You can create your own butterfly garden! This garden will help not only butterflies, but other pollinators. Pick a sunny spot in your yard for your garden, and plant native plants. Some plants you can include in your garden are Milkweed, Goldenrod, Echinacea, Joe-Pye Weed, Aster and Black-eyed Susan.