Butterfly Facts for Kids



Amazing butterfly facts every kid should know!

1. A butterfly is an insect. It has 3 body parts — head, thorax, and abdomen — plus 6 legs and 4 wings.
2. A butterfly's wings are covered in tiny scales. The scales make all the colors and patterns you see.
3. A butterfly tastes with its feet! It stands on a flower and tastes it before it sips.
4. A butterfly drinks with a long straw tongue called a proboscis. It uncurls to sip nectar.
5. Butterflies can see ultraviolet light, so flowers look very different to them than to us.
6. A group of butterflies is called a kaleidoscope.
7. Monarch butterflies migrate up to 3,000 miles to reach the same forests in Mexico.
8. A butterfly grows in 4 stages: egg, caterpillar, chrysalis, butterfly. This big change is called metamorphosis.

Help butterflies!

Plant milkweed that is native to your area, plus nectar flowers. Monarch caterpillars eat only milkweed!

Quick Quiz!

1. True or False? A butterfly has 8 legs.
2. True or False? A butterfly tastes with its feet.
3. How many stages are in a butterfly's life cycle? a) 2 b) 4 c) 6
4. True or False? A group of butterflies is called a kaleidoscope.

Answers: 1. False — a butterfly has 6 legs! 2. True 3. b) 4 4. True