

# Butterflies & Moths



Grades: K-3

Expected Completion Timeframe: 15 minutes

## Objective

Learn to tell the differences between a moth and a butterfly

## Moth and Butterfly Characteristics

Butterflies and moths have many things in common, including the colored scales (really modified hairs) that cover their bodies and wings. They both belong to the order *Lepidoptera*-this is from the Greek word *lepis* meaning scale and *pteron* meaning wing.

How do you tell the difference between and moth and a butterfly?

## Antennae

One of the easiest ways to is to look at the antennae. A butterfly's antennae are long shafts with a bulb at the tip. A moth's antennae are feathery or saw-edged.

## Wings

- Butterflies usually fold their winged back. Moths usually fold their wings down so that they hide the abdomen.
- Butterflies are usually larger and have more colorful patterns on their wings. Moths are typically smaller and have dull-colored wings of browns, whites and tans.

## Anatomy

- Moths have a frenulum, which joins the forewing and hind wing. Butterflies do not have frenulums.

## Behavior

- Butterflies are primarily fly during the daytime. Moths are generally fly at night (nocturnal). However, some moths are active during the day (buck moth, and some are butterflies only fly during dawn and dusk.

## Cocoon/Chrysalis

- These are were the larva transforms to an adult; It serves as a protective case for the pupa stage. A moth makes a cocoon, which is has a silky covering. A butterfly makes a chrysalis, which is hard, smooth capsule with no silk covering.

## Activity 1: Draw a Butterfly & Moth

1. Youth will review the characteristics with a group leader. Write the characteristics where all can see.
2. Have youth draw a butterfly and a moth on a blank piece of paper based on the characteristics listed.

Butterfly/ Moth Characteristics

Bright Colors	Dull Colors
Wings Open While Resting	Wings Closed While Resting
Active in the Day	Active at night
Makes a Chrysalis	Makes a Cocoon
Clubbed Antennae	Feathery Antennae

### Teacher Resources

- <http://www.butterfliesandmoths.org/>
- Butterfly & Moth Lifecycles <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AVGeo0Pay6Q>
- Butterfly or Moth? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iblveeTDkXQ>

### Evaluation

Their Illustrations should reflect their learned knowledge of the differences between moths and butterflies