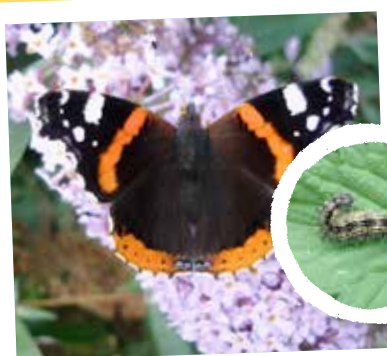


Munching Caterpillars

Did you know?
There are around
60 species of
butterfly found in
the UK

Identify butterflies and their caterpillars

Butterflies like to fly when it is warm and still so choose a sunny day with very little wind to go out looking for them. Caterpillars can most commonly be found from April to September, but if it is very hot, very cold or very wet they will probably be hiding!



Red Admiral

The big, bold and beautiful Red Admiral is a common site in summer gardens. It is usually migratory but can hibernate over winter as an adult in sheds or garages. The caterpillars love to feed on nettles.



Small Tortoiseshell

The Small Tortoiseshell is one of our most widespread butterfly species. It hibernates in the UK and can be seen from early spring to autumn, making it a popular garden visitor. The caterpillars grow on nettles, preferably growing in a sunny spot.



Painted Lady

The Painted Lady is a migrant that flies all the way from Europe and North Africa. The caterpillars' favourite foodplants are thistles.



Peacock

The Peacock is one of our most recognisable butterflies with red wings and bright eyespots to scare off predators. Its caterpillar is another that loves to feed on nettles.

Butterflies can
live in the adult stage
from anything from
one week to one year
depending on the
species



Butterfly Conservation:
Company limited by guarantee, registered in England (2206468)
Registered Office: Manor Yard, East Lulworth, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 5QP
Tel: 01929 400 209
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www.munchingcaterpillars.org



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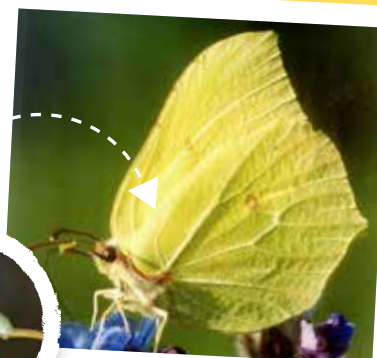


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Comma

This beautiful orange butterfly has a very distinctive shape as the wings have wavy edges. It has a white comma mark on the underside of its wings and its caterpillars like to eat nettles. They will also feed on hops, elms, currants and willows.



Brimstone

The delicate yellow Brimstone looks just like a leaf when its wings are folded together. It rests in this position to avoid being seen by birds that want to eat it. The caterpillars feed on Buckthorn and Alder Buckthorn.



Large White

The dark black wing tips distinguish this butterfly from its smaller cousin the Small White. Only the females have these spots on the wings, the male has plain white wings apart from the black wing tips. They are also known as cabbage whites because the caterpillars love to eat cabbages!

A butterfly's life cycle is made up of four parts, egg, caterpillar, chrysalis and adult



Orange-tip

Only the males have the bright orange wing tips, but both the male and female have a mottled grey-green underwing that can help distinguish this species from the Small White. Orange-tip caterpillars feed on Cuckooflower and Garlic Mustard.



Small White

The black markings on the wings are not as dark as they are on the Large White, but these butterflies can be confused with Green-veined Whites. The caterpillars feed on cabbages and Nasturtium.



Speckled Wood

The pale speckles on its brown wings and its habit of staying near shady woods and hedgerows give this pretty butterfly its name. It is a territorial butterfly and the caterpillars like to eat many different types of grasses.

Butterflies have four wings covered in tiny scales, they often have brightly coloured patterns



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Marbled White

The Marbled White is most often found in flowery grassland but it may also visit gardens. Its black and white chequered pattern is very distinctive and its caterpillars feed on several species of grasses, particularly Red Fescue.



Gatekeeper

The Gatekeeper gets its name because it likes to live in hedgerows, so it can often be spotted around gates. The caterpillars feed on many different grass species and so this butterfly can often be found at the edges of fields and along woodland rides.



Meadow Brown

The Meadow Brown is one of the most common and widespread butterflies in Britain. It is another species that prefers grassland, as its caterpillars feed on several grass species. The adults can often be seen flying in dull weather when most other species would stay hidden away.



Ringlet

It can be easy to confuse the Ringlet with the similar Meadow Brown as they are both mostly brown and like to fly in grassy meadows where the caterpillars can feed on grasses. If you look closely the ringlet has small circles on the underwing which give it its name.



Common Blue

Only the male Common Blue is really blue. The female is brown with just a dusting of blue near her body. It prefers open grassland and the caterpillars feed on Common Bird's-foot-trefoil.



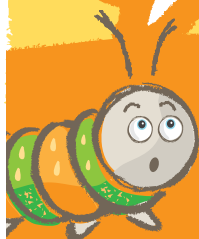
Small Copper

This butterfly may be small, but it is perfectly formed! The beautiful orange wings with tiny black spots really stand out on a sunny day. Its caterpillars feed on Common Sorrel and Sheep's Sorrel.



Small Tortoiseshell

Caterpillars have six true legs but may have several pairs of 'prolegs' along their abdomen to help them move along leaves or twigs



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Tips for looking for butterflies and caterpillars...

Here are some tips to increase your chances of finding what you are looking for...

- Different species of butterfly like different habitats. Check in a book before you go out to choose which area to look in.
- Many also fly at different times of year. You will need to look for different species in May to those you can find in September.
- Grassy meadows are very popular with a large variety of butterflies.
- Caterpillars can be found low down on plants or among leaf litter as well as higher up in bushes and trees, remember to search all through the vegetation.
- Take a guide to help identify any butterflies or caterpillars you find.
- If you're not sure what species you have found, try to take a picture and upload it on our website for us to identify.



Holly Blue

This is the palest of the blue butterflies and can often be seen flying high up among the bushes. As its name suggests the caterpillars like to eat Holly, but they will also eat Ivy.

Find out more about butterflies...

If you have enjoyed looking for the butterflies on this sheet and want to find out more about butterflies, moths and their caterpillars there are lots of places to go for more information. There is also a lot you can do to help butterflies and moths, whether you want to make your garden more butterfly-friendly, send us records of moths you have caught or take part in a national survey to help our conservation efforts.

Munching Caterpillars

www.munchingcaterpillars.org

Butterfly Conservation

www.butterfly-conservation.org

The Big Butterfly Count

www.bigbutterflycount.org

The United Kingdom Butterfly Monitoring Scheme

www.ukbms.org

The National Moth Recording Scheme

www.mothscount.org

Wild About Gardens

www.wildaboutgardens.org.uk

**Visit our
Website to find
out more!**



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