

Butterfly Information

Butterfly's Worldwide



There are over 20,000 species of butterfly identified all over the world.

Butterflies and moths are members of the insect order Lepidoptera

Lepidoptera is from the Greek meaning 'scaly wings'.

Lepidoptera is the group with the most insect species associated with flowering plants.

In the group of Lepidoptera there are more than 350,000 known species.

In the group of Lepidoptera which contains approximately 350,000 species, there are approximately 20,000 species butterflies.



Weird Information

Butterflies taste with their feet.

Polymorphic Animals

Butterflies are polymorphic animals and use their wings to either intimidate their prey or to blend into their environment.

The average butterfly can lay 400 eggs.

Out of those 400 eggs only about 8% live to the next stage

What is 8% of 400? ___

Out of those ___ butterfly eggs, only 1 or 2 live long enough to become adult butterflies.

Butterfly Maths

What is the percentage of 1 live adult out of 400 eggs?	
What is the percentage of 1 live adult out of 32 hatched eggs?	
What is the percentage of 2 live adult out of 400 eggs?	
What is the percentage of 2 live adult out of 32 hatched eggs?	

Butterfly Wings

Butterflies have wings that are coated with tiny scales.

When you touch a butterfly you risk removing some of the butterflies scales.

The scales are similar to **fish scales** when you look under a microscope.



Like on a house roof the scales overlap each other.



What is the worlds largest butterfly?

The Queen Alexandra’s Birdwing is the largest butterfly in the world by wingspan

Take a guess at how big the worlds 3 largest butterflies are?

Queen Alexandra’s Birdwing

Wingspan: _____

Location: Papua New Guinea

Prominent Colors: Blue-green, black

Goliath Birdwing

Wingspan: _____

Location: Papua New Guinea

Prominent Colors: Green, yellow, black

African Giant Swallowtail

Wingspan: _____

Location: Africa

Prominent Colors: Orange



Worlds Rarest Butterflies

Miami Blue

Estimated Numbers: Less than 100

Location: Florida Keys, Florida, USA



Island Marble

Estimated Numbers: fewer than 200

Location: San Juan Islands, Washington, USA

Palos Verdes Blue

Estimated Numbers: about 200

Location: Palos Verdes Peninsula, Los Angeles County, California, USA

Worlds Smallest Butterfly

Western Pygmy Blue

Wingspan: 1 cm

Location: Western US

