

One-on-One Butterflies

A Short Primer on Butterflies

Butterflies and the Environment

Graceful and elegant, butterflies seem to offer a little magic wherever they go. However, butterflies do more than just cheer us up. Like bees, butterflies pick up pollen while they sip a flower's nectar. Moving from plant to plant, the pollen goes with them, helping to pollinate the plant species. About *one third* of the food people eat depends on the work of pollinators such as butterflies.



Phoebis Philea butterfly

Your community can help the environment by attracting butterflies! Here's how:

- Plant native flowering plants, your local hardware store or nursery can help you with this.
- Keep in mind that butterflies are attracted to red, yellow, orange, pink and purple blossoms.
- Insecticides should not be used in or near the butterfly garden.
- Place flat stones in your garden to provide space for butterflies to rest and bask in the sun.
- Place coarse sand in a shallow pan and then insert the pan in the soil of your habitat. Make sure to keep the sand moist. This is where butterflies partake in puddling, this is when butterflies drink water and extract minerals.



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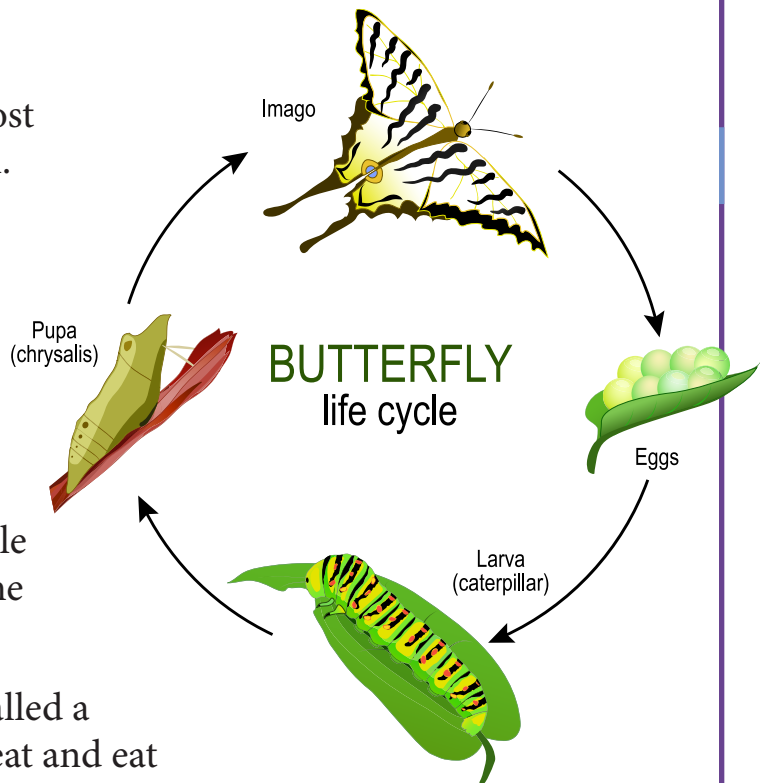
A Short Primer on Butterflies (continued)

Butterfly Science

The lifecycle of a butterfly is one of the most amazing processes in the animal kingdom. The butterfly develops through a process called *metamorphosis*. This is a Greek word that means transformation.

There are four stages in the metamorphosis of butterflies: egg, larva, pupa, and adult.

- Eggs are laid on plants by the adult female butterfly. These plants will then become the food for the hatching caterpillars.
- The next stage is the larva. This is also called a caterpillar. The job of the caterpillar is to eat and eat and eat. Food eaten at this time is used later as an adult.
- Next is the Pupa stage. When the caterpillar is full grown and stops eating, it becomes a pupa. The pupa of butterflies is also called a chrysalis. The chrysalis may be suspended under a branch or hidden among leaves.
- The adult stage is what most people think of when they think of butterflies. They look very different from the larva. Adults have long legs, long antennae, and large and colorful wings.



Did You Know?

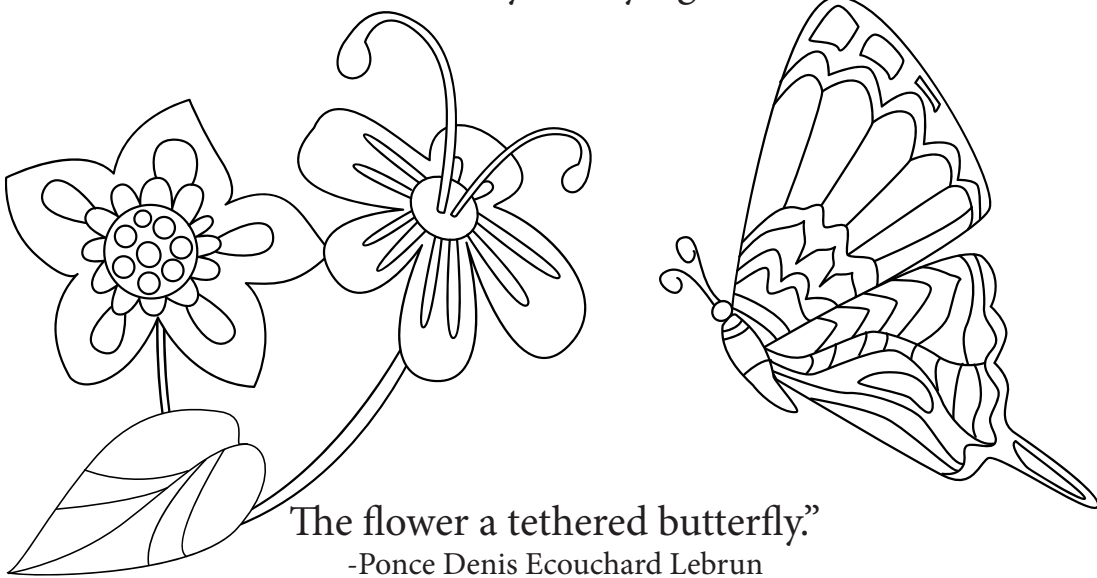
- ✿ Butterflies have taste receptors on their feet.
- ✿ Scientists estimate that there are over 15,000 different species of butterfly.
- ✿ The monarch is the only butterfly known to make a two-way migration. Some fly as far as 3,000 miles to reach their winter home.

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Butterfly Post Cards

- 1: Print this page on card stock.
- 2: Color in the illustrations.
- 3: Cut the cards out.
- 4: Send a message to those who can't visit right now. A lovely way to stay in touch!

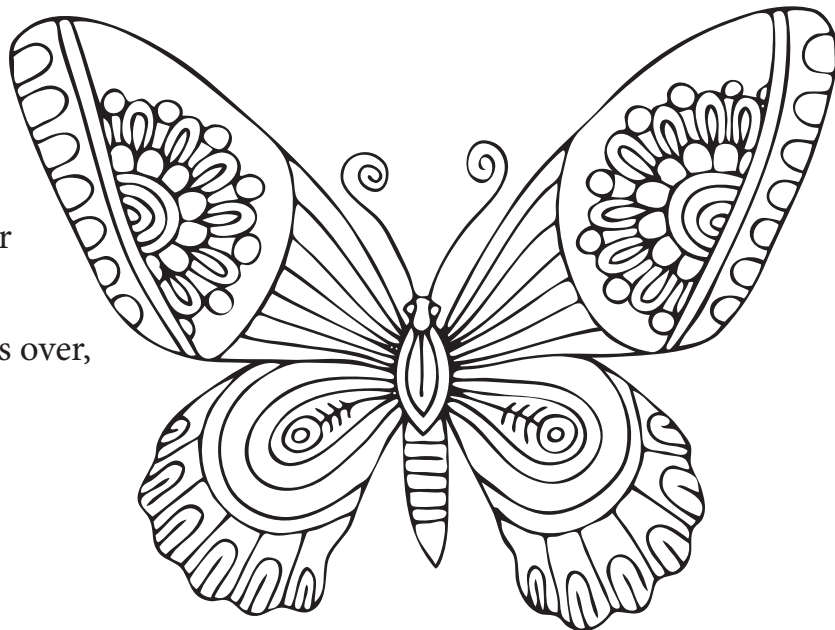
“The butterfly is a flying flower,



The flower a tethered butterfly.”
-Ponce Denis Ecouchard Lebrun

“Just when
the caterpillar
thought
the world was over,
it became
a butterfly.”

- Proverb



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Art Study



Title: Butterfly and lily
Artist: Ohara Koson
Style: Shin-hanga
Media: Wood block print

Artist **Ohara Koson**, born in 1877, was a Japanese painter and print designer of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Most of his art focused on prints of birds-and-flowers.

Bird-and-Flower Painting was a style of painting that focused on the peaceful aspect of nature. An important feature of this style was the use of blank space, to create the sense of nature's simplicity and harmony.

Art Discussion:

Take time to quietly look at the art, let the art speak.

Can you tell the time of day or the season in this painting, what clues do you have?

Pretend you are inside this painting; describe how you feel. Are there sounds? Are there scents?