

Flying Flowers and Their Kin



Butterflies, Dragonflies and
Damselflies For Kids

What is a butterfly?



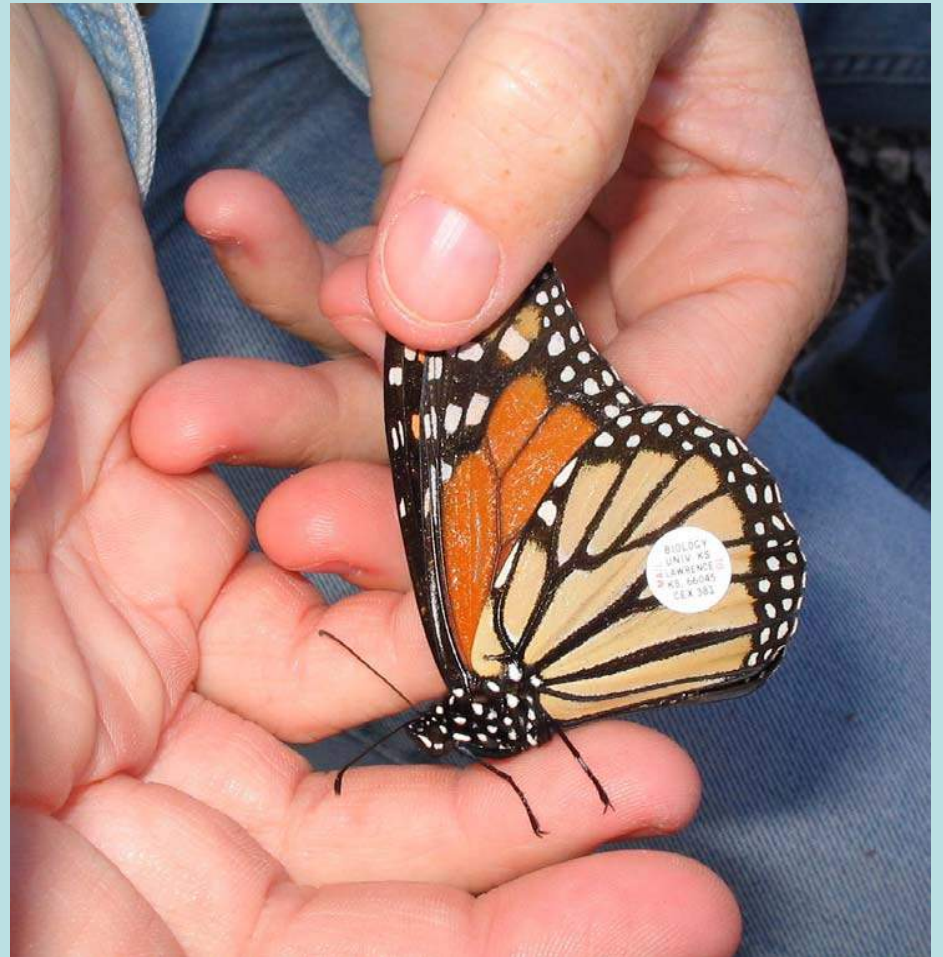
For A Biologist or A Gardener

- Butterflies are one of the animals that help pollinate our wildflowers and plants



Are Butterflies...

- Birds
- Mammals
- Insects
- Plants?



Butterflies Are Insects

- They have six legs
- They have a segmented body
 - Antennae



What Do Butterflies Eat



Photo by Molly Smith

Butterflies have

- A long tongue that curls up into their head
 - They use this to drink “nectar” or sugar water from the flowers



Can Butterflies Bite?



No

- Butterflies do not have any biting parts on their mouths
 - The best they can do is lick you!



What Do Butterflies Do?



They

- Eat nectar from flowers
 - This spreads pollen from one flower to another
- Lay caterpillar eggs on or near plants



A Butterflies Life



A Life of Change

- Eggs are deposited year round
- Caterpillars hatch
 - Big eating machines!
- Chrysalides form
- Butterflies emerge and lay eggs



What About Some Other Flying Animals



Insect Eaters



Dragonflies and Damselflies

- Dragonflies hold their wings straight out when they perch
- Damselflies fold their wings over their back



Do These Guys Chew Their Food?



Yes

- But they can not bite you
 - You are much too big for them to get their jaws around



Where Do They Come From?



Photo by John Davis

The Dragonfly and Damselfly Life

- Eggs are laid in water – ponds, rivers and streams
- Young dragonflies (naiads) may spend several years underwater
- They climb up on a stick or plant
- The dragonfly climbs out of the old skin!



Why Do We Have These Guys?



Dragonflies and Damselflies

- Eat other flying insects



Do They Sometimes Get “Good” Insects?



Yes

- But their great efforts help control insects that:
 - Bite and irritate us
 - Destroy our food and garden crops



What Can We Do To Help?



Butterflies

- Plant gardens with lots of nectar producing native plants in them
- Plant and protect caterpillar food plants
- Don't use "bug sprays" that harm butterflies or caterpillars



Dragonflies & Damselflies

- Maintain clean freshwater ponds
- Plant some native plants that will grow out of the water
- Don't use "bug sprays" that harm dragonflies & damselflies

