

Interesting Insects

Butterflies are colorful, flying insects from the Lepidoptera order. Because they are insects, they have three body parts. The three body parts are called the head, thorax, and abdomen. They also have six jointed legs, two knobbed antennae, compound eyes, and an exoskeleton.

Butterflies' four wings are unusual, because they are scaly. Their bodies are covered in little hairs.

To eat, butterflies use their long, straw-like tongues, called a proboscis. They sip nectar from flowers. They keep their proboscis coiled up when they are not eating and uncoil it to drink. Because butterflies and moths are so similar, people confuse these two insects. While they are similar, they are not the same. Moths are also from the Lepidoptera order and they have the same body parts as the butterfly, except their antennae are not knobbed. Both butterflies and moths have four wings. On the other hand, the moth's body is hairier than the butterfly's body.

Moths use a proboscis to eat just like the butterfly does. They both sip nectar from flowers.

There are two big differences between these two insects. One difference is butterflies fly in the daytime and moths fly at nighttime. Butterflies hold their wings closed above their bodies when they are standing still. In contrast, moths hold their open wings out to their sides when not flying.