

### Painted Lady Butterfly

Widespread across the world, the painted lady cannot survive the winter in colder countries like Britain. Like all butterflies it closes its wings when resting, so you won't see its beautiful bright colours until it flies away.

**Scientific name:** *Vanessa cardui*

**Where:** Europe, Africa, Middle East; prefers open, sunny areas

**Migrates:** yes

**Wingspan:** 5.8-3.4 cm (2.2-3 inches)

**Description:** orange with black spots; black tips with white spots on forewings; undersides of wings dark with four black spots

**Caterpillars:** brown with yellow stripes along back; spines

**Diet caterpillars:** thistles, stinging nettles and mallows

**Diet butterflies:** nectar-rich flowers



### Red Admiral Butterfly

This butterfly used to be called the 'red admirable' butterfly: perhaps it changed its name just because it's easier to say 'admiral'. It is common and very striking.

**Scientific name:** *Vanessa atalanta*

**Where:** North Africa, mainland Europe and Britain; gardens, parks, countryside

**Migrates:** most migrate but some hibernate

**Wingspan:** 6.4-7.8 cm (2.5-3 inches)

**Description:** dark wings with orange-red band; white spots on forewings; undersides of wings mainly brown marbled pattern

**Caterpillars:** hairy black body with pale speckles

**Diet caterpillars:** nettles

**Diet butterflies:** nectar, tree sap and fallen fruit – often seen on buddleia



### Peacock Butterfly

This butterfly gets its name from the 'eyes' on its wings which look a bit like the 'eyes' on a peacock's tail. It is often seen feeding on buddleia ('butterfly bush'). It can make a hissing noise to frighten off predators by flapping its wings together.

**Scientific name:** *Aglais io*

**Where:** Europe and Asia; countryside, parks, gardens

**Migrates:** no

**Wingspan:** 6.3-7.5 cm (2.5-3 inches)

**Description:** orange-red with black markings and blue and yellow 'eyes'; dark brown undersides

**Caterpillars:** black with bristles and pale speckles

**Diet caterpillars:** nettles and hops

**Diet butterflies:** nectar, tree sap and fallen fruit



### Cabbage White Butterfly

Lays its eggs on the leaves of the cabbage family (brassicas). Gardeners often plant nasturtiums near their cabbages so that they lay their eggs on these colourful plants instead.

**Scientific name:** *Pieris brassicae*

**Where:** Europe, Asia, North Africa and North America; prefers open spaces, gardens, lowland countryside

**Migrates:** sometimes; most overwinter in colder areas as chrysalises

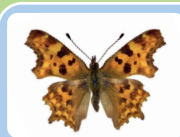
**Wingspan:** 5.8-6.3 cm (2.3-2.5 inches)

**Description:** white wings with black-tipped forewings; females have two black spots on forewings and are a pale creamy yellow; underside of wings are pale green for camouflage

**Caterpillars:** striped black and yellow – a warning to birds and other predators not to eat them as they are poisonous

**Diet caterpillars:** brassicas

**Diet butterflies:** nectar



### Comma Butterfly

Gets its name from the white 'comma' on the underside of its wings. Its ragged wings are a good disguise: when they are closed it could be mistaken for a dead leaf.

**Scientific name:** *Polygonia c-album*

**Where:** mainly Norway, Sweden and Great Britain, but also North Africa, Asia and Europe; light woodland, country lanes, gardens

**Migrates:** no – adult butterflies hibernate

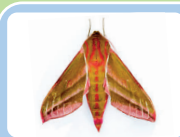
**Wingspan:** 5-6.4 cm (2.2-2.4 inches)

**Description:** ragged orange wings with brown markings; brown undersides with a white 'comma'

**Caterpillars:** white with brown flecks – they can be mistaken for bird droppings, which means they are less likely to be eaten!

**Diet caterpillars:** nettles, gooseberry and pussy willow

**Diet butterflies:** nectar, tree sap and fallen fruit



### Elephant Hawkmoth

You can spot the elephant hawkmoth at dusk hovering like a hawk over flowers and sucking their nectar. It is the caterpillar that gives it its unusual name: it is thought to look like an elephant's trunk.

**Scientific name:** *Deilephila elpenor*

**Where:** England, Wales, Ireland, parts of Scotland, Central and Southern Europe, Asia; open countryside, sand dunes, gardens

**Migrates:** no – it overwinters in a cocoon before emerging as a moth in the spring

**Wingspan:** 4.5-6 cm (1.8-2.4 inches)

**Description:** gold wings patterned and edged with pink

**Caterpillars:** grey with false 'eye' markings to frighten off predators

**Diet caterpillars:** rosebay willowherb, fuchsia and bedstraw

**Diet moths:** night-scented flowers like honeysuckle



### Garden Tiger Moth

A 'priority species' in Great Britain: it is in decline as there are fewer and fewer places where it can live.

**Scientific name:** *Arctia caja*

**Where:** US, Canada and Europe; meadows, woodland glades, sand dunes

**Migrates:** no

**Wingspan:** 4.5-6.5 cm (1.8-2.6 inches)

**Description:** dark and white patterned forewings that signal to predators that it is poisonous; back wings are orange with dark spots

**Caterpillars:** sometimes called 'woolly bears' because they are covered in thick black and orange hairs

**Diet caterpillars:** foxgloves, dock and nettles

**Diet moths:** nectar at night



### Emperor Moth

An impressive, large, furry moth with false 'eyes' to frighten off predators. The male moths fly by day and the females by night. The adult moths don't feed at all: they only live for a few days, which they spend looking for a mate.

**Scientific name:** *Saturnia pavonia*

**Where:** British Isles, Channel Islands, Europe, Asia; heaths, moorland, sand dunes, open country

**Migrates:** no – it is a silk moth and spins a cocoon to hibernate in, emerging as a moth in the spring

**Wingspan:** 5.5-8 cm (2-3 inches)

**Description:** grey-brown wings with false 'eyes' on all four wings; males are brighter than females and have feathery antennae and orange hindwings

**Caterpillars:** green with black and yellow spots with short bristly hairs

**Diet:** only caterpillars feed – woody plants such as heather, brambles, blackthorn and hawthorn

## Butterflies & Moths