Date
LO: To use a classification key to classify butterflies

Butterflies

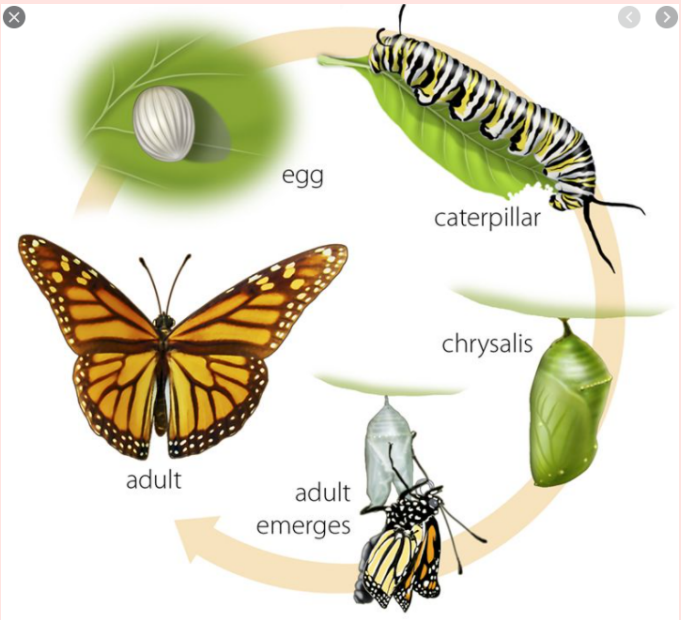
Butterfly, (superfamily Papilionoidea), any of numerous species of insects belonging to multiple families. Butterflies, along with the moths and the skippers, make up the insect order Lepidoptera. Butterflies are nearly worldwide in their distribution.

The wings, bodies, and legs of butterflies, like those of moths, are covered with dustlike scales that come off when the animal is handled. Unlike moths, butterflies are active during the day and are usually brightly coloured or strikingly patterned. Perhaps the most distinctive physical features of the butterfly are its club-tipped antennae and its habit of holding the wings vertically over the back when at rest.

There are many different kinds of butterflies. The males and females of each kind are often slightly different from each other. Butterfly watching is a popular hobby. Some people also keep collections of dead butterflies that they have caught.
Like all insects with complete metamorphosis, a butterfly's life goes through four distinct stages. It begins as an egg, which hatches into a larva (a caterpillar). After some time, the larva turns into a chrysalis (like a cocoon). While it is in the chrysalis, it becomes a butterfly. The butterfly then hatches out and lays more eggs.
There are four stages in the life cycle of a butterfly: egg, larva, pupa (chrysalis) and adult.

The butterfly families include: Pieridae, the whites and sulfurs, known for their mass migrations; Papilionidae, the swallowtails and parnassians; Lycaenidae, including the blues, coppers, hairstreaks, and gossamer-winged butterflies; Riodinidae, the metalmarks, found chiefly in the American tropics; Nymphalidae, the brush-footed butterflies; Hesperiidae, the skippers; and Hedylidae, the American moth-butterflies (sometimes considered a sister group to

Papilionoidea). The brush-footed butterflies represent the largest and most diverse family and include such popular butterflies as the admirals, fritillaries, monarchs, zebras, and painted ladies.



Monarch butterfly hatching

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7AUeM8MbaIk

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4x_NVAqnILU

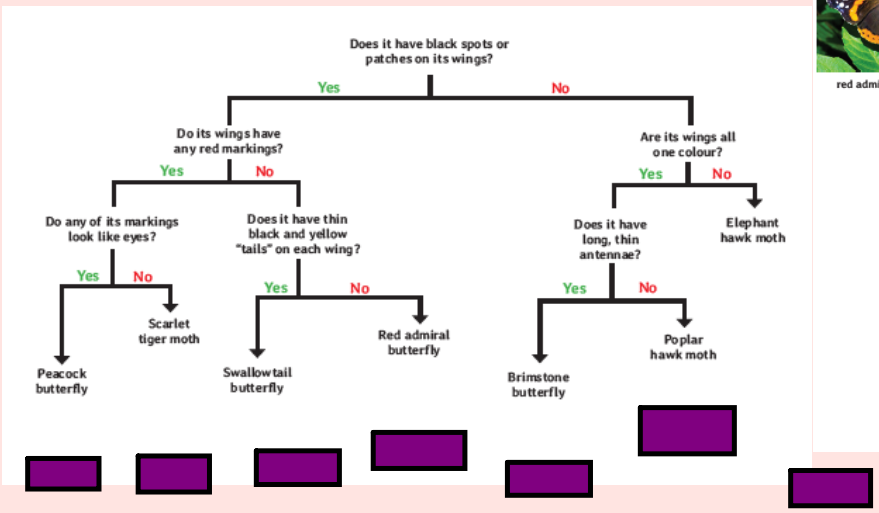
Today we are going to classify butterflies by studying and observing them carefully.



How might these butterflies be classified?

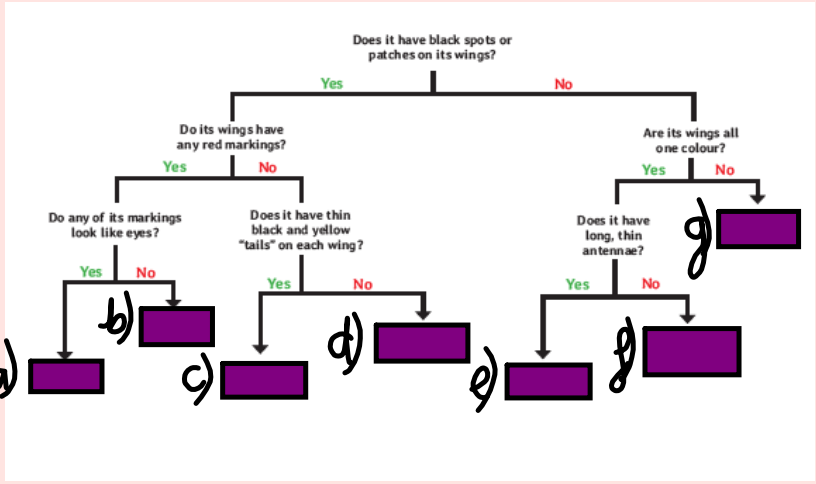


I do


Does it have black spots or patches on its wings?
Yes
No
Do its wings have any red markings?
Are its wings all one colour?
Yes
No
Yes
No
Do any of its markings look like eyes?
Does it have thin black and yellow "tails" on each wing?
Does it have long, thin antennae?
Elephant hawk moth
Yes
No
Yes
No
Yes
No
Scarlet tiger moth
Red admiral butterfly
Poplar hawk moth
Peacock butterfly
Swallowtail butterfly
Brimstone butterfly


red admiral butterfly
brimstone butterfly
swallowtail butterfly
poplar hawk moth
scarlet tiger moth
elephant hawk moth
Peacock butterfly

We do


Does it have black spots or patches on its wings?
Yes
No
Do its wings have any red markings?
Yes
No
Are its wings all one colour?
Yes
No
Do any of its markings look like eyes?
Yes
No
Does it have thin black and yellow "tails" on each wing?
Yes
No
Does it have long, thin antennae?
Yes
No
a)
b)
c)
d)
e)
f)
g)


red admiral butterfly
brimstone butterfly
swallowtail butterfly
poplar hawk moth
scarlet tiger moth
elephant hawk moth
Peacock butterfly

You do

Create your own classification key for the butterflies.



