#### Record your answers here.



### **Try This**



This is a hummingbird moth. It is just one of many, many types of pollinators. Try to find as many pollinators on flowers as you can. This includes bees, hummingbirds and even beetles. If you observe a species that you are curious about, try to identify it by taking a photo on a smartphone and uploading it to Seek by iNaturalist.

# KID OUEST BUTTERFLIES



# **Beautiful Pollinators**

Butterflies are lovely creatures that captivate us, perhaps because of the amazing transformation they make from egg to caterpillar to chrysalis to butterfly. Although butterflies enchant us with their beauty, they are not just whimsical. They play the crucial role of pollinating plants. When they are hunting for nectar, pollen grains stick to them. As they move from flower to flower, they spread pollen and enable plants to produce fertile seeds. There are lots of butterflies living among us. Head outside with this edition of Kid Quest to learn a bit more about them.



# **KID QUEST**



#### GROWING

Butterflies lay eggs on carefully chosen plants growing in their native habitats. Each type of newly-hatched caterpillar needs a specific type of plant. Monarchs eat milkweed. Without it, monarch offspring can't survive. Do you see any caterpillars munching on leaves? Caterpillars come in many sizes, colors and patterns.

1.Write how many caterpillars you find on the back of this sheet.

#### SMELLING

Butterflies, like this monarch, need flower nectar to eat. They find flowers by following their scent; however, butterflies do not have noses. They smell with sensors on their antennae and their feet. Try to find a flower that smells good to you. Look everywhere. You might find a huge magnolia bloom or a tiny honeysuckle flower.

2.Write the flower scent you liked best on the back of this sheet.





#### TASTING

Butterflies can taste their food before they eat it with receptors on their feet. This prevents them from eating something toxic. This swallowtail is eating with a thin strawlike tube called a proboscis. While butterflies are busy tasting and eating, they spread pollen and pollinate plants. Do you see any pollen grains on flowers?

3.Describe the pollen grains you find on the back of this sheet.



#### SEEING

Butterflies see with compound eyes. We have one lens in each of our eyes, but they have many tiny lenses. Butterflies do not try to recognize details like facial features. They look for big patches of colorful flowers. They see more colors than we do including ultraviolet ones. What colors do you see?

5.Write your favorite colors you see outside on the back of this sheet.



## TRANSFORMING

When a caterpillar has eaten its fill, it wraps itself in a chrysalis. It does not want to be discovered by a hungry predator, so the chrysalis may be camouflaged to look like an old leaf. Finding one can be tricky. As you search, you might discover other insects that are camouflaged.

4.Describe the camouflaged organisms you find on the back of this sheet.



### SURVIVING

Some butterflies end up as prey for hungry predators like birds and lizards. Butterflies can protect themselves with adaptations. The common buckeye has spots on its wings that scare predators who mistake the spots for the eyes of a more dangerous creature. It also eats bitter plants so it tastes bad to predators.

6.Write another adaptation a butterfly might have on the back of this sheet.