

POLLINATORS

Lesson Plan

Butterflies and Moths

Lesson Plan for *Butterflies*

Grade 3

Objective

To help students identify differences between luna moths and monarch butterflies based on online texts and images.

Things Needed

- *Butterflies* book
- Access to the “Butterflies” web page on the Pop! website:
<https://popbooksonline.com/pollinators/butterflies>
- Access to the “Moths” web page on the Pop! website:
<https://popbooksonline.com/pollinators/moths>
- Whiteboard

Before the Activity

Read *Butterflies* out loud as a class. Then, use your internet browser to open both web pages in separate tabs. On the “Butterflies” web page, select the “Explore Links” tab. Click the link for the National Geographic Kids “Monarch Butterfly” slideshow. This slideshow can also be found here: <https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/invertebrates/insects/monarch-butterfly/#/monarch-butterfly-grass.jpg>

On the “Moths” web page, select the “Explore Links” tab. Click the link for the National Geographic Kids “Luna Moth” slideshow. This slideshow can also be found here: <https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/invertebrates/insects/luna-moth/#/luna-moth-wings.jpg>

Activity

Moths and butterflies are similar. But they have a few key differences. Today, students will compare a species of butterfly with a species of moth. First, pull up the “Monarch Butterfly” slideshow.



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Scroll through each image, inviting a different volunteer to read each caption. Then ask the following questions, writing students' answers on the whiteboard:

- How big is a full-grown monarch butterfly? (Answer: 4 to 5 inches, or 10 to 13 cm)
- How long do monarch butterflies live? (Answer: a few months)
- Where do monarch butterflies live? (Answer: in North and South America, in parts of Australia, and in Indonesia)

Next, pull up the “Luna Moth” slideshow. Scroll through each image, again inviting a different volunteer to read each caption. Then ask the following questions, writing students' answers on the whiteboard:

- How big can a luna moth be? (Answer: 4 ½ inches, or 11 cm)
- How long do luna moths live? (Answer: about a week)
- Where do luna moths live? (Answer: in North America)

Finally, draw two columns on the whiteboard. Label one “Similarities” and one “Differences.” Have students brainstorm as a class to come up with four facts for each column. Students can use the information they read in the captions. They can also study the photos in each slideshow.

Evaluation

Could students answer the questions about each slideshow? Could they list four similarities and four differences between monarchs and luna moths? Use these sample answers as a guide:

Similarities

- Both are just a few inches long.
- Both can be found in North America.
- Both have two antennae.
- Both have four sections in their wings.

Differences

- Their wings have different colors and markings.
- Luna moths have fuzzy bodies and fuzzy antennae.
- Luna moths have shorter life spans.
- Monarch butterflies have a larger range.
- Monarch butterflies migrate.

Standards

This lesson plan may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' reading standards for informational texts, grade 3 (RI 3.1, 3.7).



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