

Comprehension – Butterflies

Butterflies

Butterflies are one of the most elegant, graceful insects to exist and there are over 20,000 species of them, but unfortunately, they only live for a few weeks. They spend their limited life-time pollinating our plants (which helps plants and food grow), helping scientists to predict the health of ecosystems, and re-populating. Butterflies survive by feeding on nectar and residing on leaves for rest and sleep. They are unable to fly when they are cold which can make them extremely vulnerable to predators such as birds and other insects. Butterflies have some rather bizarre yet remarkable quirks: they taste with their feet, they don't have teeth and some species of butterfly make a loud clicking sound to communicate! The most common butterfly that you will see in your garden is the 'Cabbage White' butterfly (named after the plants they are usually found on - cabbage plants) because there is an abundance of them in the UK.

1. What does the word '*predict*' mean in the context of the text?

2. What affect does the phrase '*the most common butterfly you will see in your garden*' have on the reader?

3. How long do butterflies live for?

4. Give another word that means the same as '*remarkable*' as it is used in the text?

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5. Why does the author describe the 'Cabbage White' butterfly as 'common'?

Tick the box next to the correct answer.

Because they are in the UK.

Because they are white.

There is an abundance of them.

You will see them in your garden.

6. What does the word 'vulnerable' mean in the context of the text?

Tick the box next to the correct answer.

At risk to.

Unarmed.

Unsafe.

Worried.

7. Why are butterflies important to Science?

8. How do you know that the reader feels nervous around butterflies?

9. What do the words 'elegant' and 'graceful' tell you about butterflies?

10. What do you think this information on butterflies could be used for?

Answers

1. Predict means to assume/guess/foresee. Accept any of those or similar explanation.
2. Makes the reader feel like they can relate to the text and can make the most of the information. Accept answer along same lines.
3. A few weeks.
4. Great, amazing , extraordinary. Accept similar answers.
5. There is an abundance of them.
6. At risk to.
7. Because they help scientist predict the health of ecosystems.
8. We know that she feels nervous/unprepared because she says: "some species of butterfly make a loud clicking sound to communicate!".
9. That they are delicate, gentle, nimble, beautiful. Accept anything similar.
10. For an information book, an encyclopedia, for schools. Accept anything valid and similar.