

Where do Butterflies Live?

Butterflies live everywhere in the world except Antarctica and very arid deserts where there is no food for them. Butterflies are cold-blooded and eat nectar from flowers and fruit juice. They need to live where they can be warm and find flowers and fruit to eat.

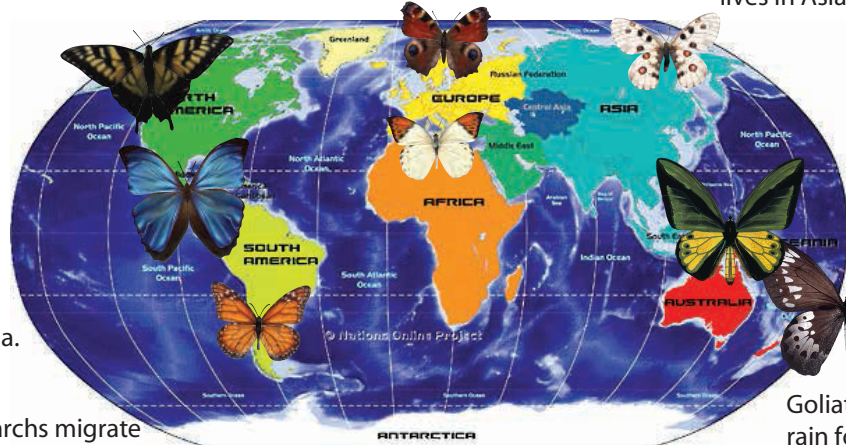
Swallowtails live almost everywhere. The tiger swallowtail is common in North America.

Blue morphos live in the tropical forests of Latin America from Mexico to Colombia.

Monarchs migrate between Canada and Northern America in the spring and summer and down to Mexico in the winter.

Peacock (*Inachis io*, Tagpfauenauge) lives in Europe.

Small apollo, alpen apollo (*Parnassius phoebus*) lives in Asia.

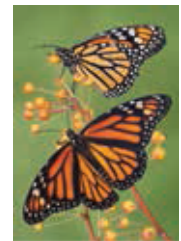


Goliath birdwings live in the rain forests of New Guinea. The largest known butterfly belongs to this group. It is the Queen Alexandra's birdwing.

Tiny orange tip (*Colotis evagore*) is a butterfly of the Pieridae family. It is found in the dry parts of tropical Africa, northern Africa, southern Spain, and southwest Arabia.

Many butterflies migrate, or move from one place to another. One of the most famous of these is the monarch butterfly. Monarchs like to live near milkweed and where it is warm, so when it gets cold in North America in the winter, the monarch butterflies migrate by flying all the way to Central America or Mexico! In the spring, the monarchs can come back north while it is warm.

The monarchs migrate up to 2,500 miles. They travel between 20 and 50 miles per day. They only fly during the day. At night the migrating butterflies roost in trees. Monarchs often fly along shores and rivers. Monarchs also use the sun to know where to go.



Other butterflies hibernate, or sleep deeply, through the winter. Some types of butterflies that hibernate are: mourning cloaks, question marks, and commas. Some butterflies hibernate as eggs or larva like the gray hairstreak, cabbage white, checkered white, and some swallowtails.

Answer the questions about where butterflies live.

1. What is one place butterflies DO NOT live? _____

2. Where do Goliath birdwing butterflies live? _____

3. Where do monarch butterflies live in the winter? _____