

# ANIMAL FUN FACTS

## THE BUTTERFLY

Butterflies do not chew their food. Instead, they soak up nutrients through their proboscis, a tube-like tongue, that works like a straw.

Male butterflies get nutrients that are not available in flowers by drinking from puddles. This butterfly behavior is known as 'puddling'.

Most butterflies fly from 5 to 12 miles per hour. Their wings move in a figure '8' motion.

Metamorphosis, the process through which a caterpillar transforms into a butterfly, is completed within 10 to 15 days, depending on the species.

Butterflies have 200 times greater sense of taste than humans and they taste with their feet.

Butterflies communicate with one another by making noises with their wings.

Birds, snakes, lizards, rats, wasps, ants, and certain types of flies are all part of the list of butterfly predators.

Predators classify butterflies into two groups - those that taste delicious and those that taste horrible. It is interesting to know that the prettiest, most vibrantly colored butterfly taste the worst. In fact, these butterflies cause sickness in many predators.

Scales, similar to that of a fish, are what give butterfly wings their color and patterns. They also provide protection and insulation.



Butterflies find nectar in different colored flowers such as zinnias, lilacs, and butterfly fly bush, as well as from rotting fruit, dung, pollen, and tree sap.

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A group of butterflies is called a 'flutter'.

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