



KS2 Resources

Daisy Discovers Butterflies

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Go Tell the Bees Learning Hive
National Theatre Wales



Daisy Discovers Butterflies

This video looks at the serious issue of loss of biodiversity and species extinction.

This resource is intended to be a tool to encourage learners to think critically and creatively about climate change. The video has been produced in the form of a “News Flash” bulletin, narrated by a fun, fictional character named Daisy Mothbrain.

Daisy is a clumsy, inquisitive news reporter with a specialist skill. She has a unique connection with bees, who talk to her and share all their information. Daisy Mothbrain is confronted with a problem connected to the environmental and social impacts of the way humans are living. Through investigating and exploring the topic with Daisy, it is hoped learners will feel engaged and empowered to make meaningful changes in their lives.

The video is 4 minutes in length and can be watched straight through, or broken up by pausing at the two natural breaks in each video (signalled by a bee graphic and a short burst of music) to intersperse the session with other activities and/or discussion. It connects with other activities in the Hive.

Simple Acts

- Plant a Seed
- Take a Walk
- Learn One New Thing About Nature

Area of Learning and Experience

- Expressive Arts
- Science and Technology
- Health and Wellbeing
- Language, Literacy and Communications

Resources Required

- The video
 - Laptop/Projector/Screen
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Daisy Discovers Butterflies

Themes and Questions

This video looks at the serious issue of loss of biodiversity and species extinction. When Daisy discovers her friends, the peacock butterfly caterpillars, have gone missing, she sets out to uncover where they have gone. By interviewing the bees, Daisy learns the situation is far more serious than she first thought. Almost half a million species of insects are threatened with extinction due to habitat loss and the overuse of pesticides, with butterflies being disproportionately affected. Daisy sets out on a mission to find what humans can do to put it right. The resource is intended to be a fun introduction to the serious topic of biodiversity and habitat loss. It ends with an open question and an invitation for teachers and pupils to learn more about this fascinating topic.

How to Use the Resource

You can watch the video as a whole or pause at the points indicated in the video. Suggestions for activities at pause points or at the end are given in this guide.

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Themes and Questions

Pause Point One: Extinction

Butterflies are some of the most highly studied insects, so scientists have a lot of data on them. In the last 40 years we know their populations have crashed, like the rest of the invertebrate world. Ask learners to consider why this matters. Can they make a list of reasons why butterflies are important and why we should try to conserve them? According to the charity Butterfly Conservation, these are the main reasons listed:

- **They are very beautiful**

Butterflies and moths are intrinsically valuable and are worthy of conservation in their own right. People enjoy seeing butterflies both around their homes and in the countryside.

- **They are very useful**

Butterflies and moths are part of life on Earth and an important component of its rich biodiversity as pollinators.

- **They are very old**

They have been around for at least 50 million years and probably first evolved some 150 million years ago.

- **They are absolutely amazing**

Butterflies and moths have fascinating life-cycles that are used in many countries to teach children about the natural world. The transformation from egg to caterpillar to chrysalis is one of the wonders of nature.

- **They help us to understand the natural world better**

Butterflies (and moths to a lesser extent) are an extremely important group of 'model' organisms used, for centuries, to investigate many areas of biological research, including such diverse fields as navigation, pest control, embryology, mimicry, evolution, genetics, population dynamics and biodiversity conservation.

- **They are key to research on climate change**

The long history and popularity of butterfly study have provided a unique data resource on an insect group unmatched in geographical scale and timescale anywhere in the world. This has proved extremely important for scientific research on climate change.

- **They are fluttering barometers of change**

Butterflies and moths are indicators of a healthy environment and healthy ecosystems.

- **Their presence encourages biodiversity**

Areas rich in butterflies and moths are rich in other invertebrates. These collectively provide a wide range of environmental benefits, including pollination and natural pest control. Moths and butterflies are also an important element of the food chain and are prey for birds, bats and other insectivorous animals (for example, in Britain and Ireland, Blue Tits eat an estimated 50 billion moth caterpillars each year).

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Pause Point Two: Habitat Loss

- Break out into discussion groups to consider why homes are so important. What do we need in our homes to survive? Where do learners imagine butterflies live? Can they make a list of all the things they would need to have a comfortable home?
- The **'Design your own Eco-house'** activity under the "Consume a little less" simple act could work well alongside this. It promotes the idea of living in harmony with the natural world, rather than dominating and excluding it.
- The **'Plants and animals Escape-Room Style Activity'** under the "Learn one new thing about nature" simple act would also work well, to boost learners knowledge about butterfly and moth species.

Follow on Activities:

At the end of the video consider what changes learners could make to help make a positive difference.

- Learn how to identify butterflies and moths:
 - 🖱️ https://munchingcaterpillars.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/ID_guide_to_Butterflies_and_their_caterpillars1.pdf
- Learn more about the plants that caterpillars and butterflies need at the different stages of their life cycles to survive:
 - 🖱️ <https://butterfly-conservation.org/sites/default/files/butterflyfoodplants.pdf>
- Put your knowledge into action by creating "Caterpillar Cafes" and "Butterfly refuelling stations" around your school using this handy guide:
 - 🖱️ <https://munchingcaterpillars.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/MC-School-Grounds-Guide.pdf>
- Sign your school up to a campaign to help the fight-back to save insects e.g.
 - 🖱️ <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/take-action-insects-your-school>

Useful Links:

- 🖱️ <https://munchingcaterpillars.org>
 - 🖱️ <https://butterfly-conservation.org>
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