

Approach: Station

Year: 4 & 8

Focus: Comprehending meaning, analysing

Resources: A3 poster, computer program on laptop computer

Questions / instructions:

This activity uses the computer.
Read the poster before you use the computer.

Butterfly or Moth?

Butterflies and moths look alike, but there are ways of telling them apart.

Butterflies are usually more colourful than moths. Butterflies fly around during the day, while most moths fly at night.

At night, moths cannot use what they look like to find each other. Instead the male finds the female by her scent. Moths often shiver before they fly. The shivering helps to warm up their bodies.

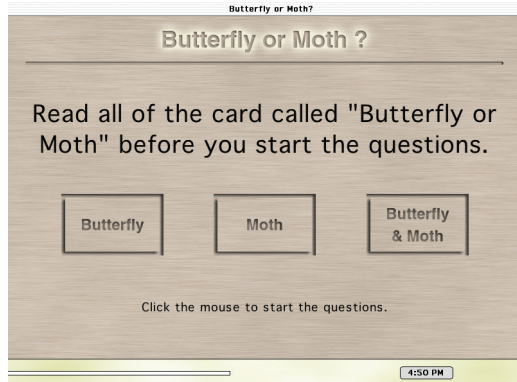
When a moth lands it spreads out its wings. Most butterflies rest with their wings pressed together. When butterflies and moths land they hold on tight using hooks on their feet.

A butterfly's antenna has a blob at its end. The antenna of a moth is feathery.

Both butterflies and moths have 2 pairs of wings, which they use to fly through the air. They have large eyes that allow them to see in colour. Butterflies and moths feed on the sugary nectar made by flowers.

Butterflies and Moths lay their eggs on plants. Their eggs hatch into caterpillars.

Click on the button that says **Butterfly or Moth?**
The computer will tell you what to do.



	% responses		% responses	
	y4	y8	y4	y8
1. Which insect has 2 pairs of wings?	both	55	75	
2. Which insect comes out in daylight?	butterfly	78	87	
3. Which insect rests with its wings out?	moth	63	74	
4. Which male insect finds a female by her scent?	moth	62	82	
5. Which insect has a blob on the end of its antenna?	butterfly	69	83	
6. Which insect uses its wings to fly?	both	59	82	
7. Which insect feeds on flower nectar?	both	37	64	
8. Which insect rests with its wings together?	butterfly	66	76	
9. Which insect has feathery antenna?	moth	67	77	
10. Which insect has eggs that hatch into caterpillars?	both	27	51	
11. Which insect has hooks on its feet?	both	39	64	
12. Which insect shivers before it flies?	moth	72	83	
13. Which insect sees in colour?	both	24	45	
14. Which insect comes out at night?	moth	84	92	
Total score:	14	2	13	
	12-13	14	31	
	10-11	16	22	
	8-9	22	15	
	6-7	24	9	
	4-5	16	8	
	0-3	6	2	

Commentary:

Forty-four percent of year 8 students got no more than two of the 14 answers wrong compared to just 16 percent of the year 4 students. Predictably, the year 8 students' advantage was greatest on the more difficult questions (questions 6, 7, 10, 11 and 13).