



Butterflies

Butterflies are beautiful, flying insects with large scaly wings. Butterflies are very good fliers. They have two pairs of large wings covered with colorful, iridescent scales in overlapping rows. Butterflies and moths are the only insects that have scaly wings. The wings are attached to the butterfly's thorax or mid-section. Veins support the delicate wings and nourish them with blood. Butterflies can only fly if their body temperature is above 86 degrees. Butterflies sun themselves to warm up in cool weather. As butterflies age, the color of the wings fades and the wings become ragged. The speed varies among butterfly species. Poisonous butterflies fly slower than non-poisonous butterflies. The fastest butterflies can fly at about 30 mile per hour or faster. Slow flying butterflies fly about 5 mph.

Answer these questions:

1. Butterflies have...
 - a. soft feathers
 - b. scaly wings
 - c. curly tails
2. The fastest butterflies can fly
 - a. 10 miles an hour
 - b. 300 miles an hour
 - c. 30 miles an hour
3. Some butterflies are...
 - a. dancers
 - b. mammals
 - c. poisonous
4. Butterflies can only fly if...
 - a. their bodies are wet
 - b. their bodies are warm
 - c. their bodies are pink
5. When butterflies get old...
 - a. Their wing color fades
 - b. Their hair turns gray
 - c. Their scales get wrinkled
6. The only insects that have scaly wings are...
 - a. ants and butterflies
 - b. beetles and butterflies
 - c. moths and butterflies