



# Butterfly Garden Adventure




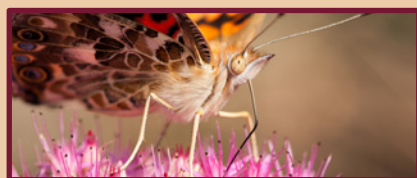
Wander the *Harriet K. Maxwell Desert Wildflower Loop* trail to discover how butterflies use plants to eat, grow and survive in their life cycle.

## Host Plants

*Find plants that caterpillars can eat.*

Caterpillars have two jobs: to eat and grow. The plant they eat is called their **host plant**; its the only plant the caterpillars can eat to survive. Monarch caterpillars rely on their host plant, the milkweed. This is where monarch butterflies lay their eggs.

 *If you could only eat one thing, what would it be?*



## Nectar Plants

*Find flowering plants that provide nectar.*


Adult butterflies drink **nectar** from flowers through their straw-like tongue called a *proboscis*. They use their antennae and super color vision to find blooms. Flat, clustered flowers that are easier to land on are their favorite.

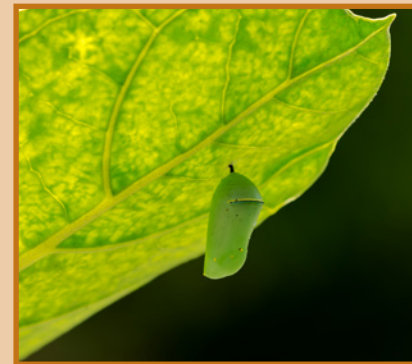
 *Use your senses. What colors do you see? Describe what you smell.*

## Shelter Plants

*Find leafy, shady plants that can provide shelter.*

Shelter plants are trees or shrubs that can protect butterflies from wind, rain and predators. Butterflies need shelter plants at all stages of their life. Caterpillars often find a shelter plant when they are ready to form their chrysalis.


 *Look at the plants around you. Where would you want to hide?*



## Did you know?

*Did you see a butterfly or caterpillar? Sometimes they are hard to spot.*

Camouflage helps insects like butterflies blend into their surroundings, or tricks predators into thinking they are something they are not. One example: Giant Swallowtail caterpillars look like bird poop. They can hide in plain sight thanks to this clever disguise.

 *What would your camouflage look like?*



## Draw your own Butterfly Garden.

*Use what you learned today to imagine your own butterfly garden at home. Find the downloadable activity at [dbg.org/butterfly-garden](http://dbg.org/butterfly-garden).*

