

Name _____

Nectar Nourishment: Exploring What Butterflies Eat

Short Answer Key

1. The primary source of nutrition for adult butterflies is nectar, which they access using their specialized mouthparts called proboscises, resembling straws.
2. Butterflies use specialized mouthparts called proboscises to sip nectar, which resemble straws, allowing them to extract nectar from flowers without damaging the petals.
3. Butterflies feed on a wide variety of flowers to obtain essential nutrients. Their proboscises adapt to different flowers; some have long proboscises for tubular flowers, while others have shorter proboscises for flat or shallow flowers.
4. Butterfly caterpillars primarily eat plant material such as leaves and stems. This diet is important for their development because it provides the energy and nutrients needed to grow and develop into adult butterflies.
5. Butterflies contribute to the health of ecosystems through their feeding habits by pollinating flowers. As they move from flower to flower in search of nectar, they inadvertently transfer pollen, helping to fertilize plants and ensure the production of seeds and fruits.

