

Name _____

Nectar Nourishment: Exploring What Butterflies Eat

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Changes in the availability of flowers can impact the diet and survival of butterflies by affecting the availability of nectar. Reduced flower abundance could lead to food shortages for butterflies, impacting their ability to reproduce and survive.
2. Butterflies play a crucial role in pollination by transferring pollen from one flower to another as they feed on nectar. This process helps fertilize plants and ensures the production of seeds and fruits, contributing to the health and diversity of ecosystems.
3. An interesting question to explore regarding butterfly feeding behavior could be how different species of butterflies select their preferred flowers for feeding and how this preference influences their foraging patterns and interactions with other pollinators.
4. The feeding habits of butterflies have likely evolved to optimize their survival and reproduction by allowing them to efficiently obtain essential nutrients from available food sources. For example, the specialized proboscises of butterflies are adapted for accessing nectar from flowers, while their ability to feed on alternative food sources may provide flexibility in times of food scarcity.

