

Name _____



A Day in the Life of a Moth

Moths are busy little creatures with habits and behaviors that help them survive in their environments. Most moths are nocturnal, which means they are active at night. While the world is sleeping, moths are out flying, feeding, and looking for mates. Some species of moths are crepuscular, meaning they are active during twilight—at dawn or dusk. It's very rare to see moths flying around during the

day unless they are disturbed or belong to a daytime species.

Moths spend much of their time resting during the day to avoid predators like birds. To stay safe, they use their natural camouflage to blend in with tree bark, leaves, or rocks. This clever behavior helps them hide from danger until it's dark enough to come out again. At night, moths use their excellent sense of smell and sight to locate food and navigate their surroundings.

Moths are mostly solitary insects. This means they prefer to live and work alone rather than in groups. However, moths interact with each other in important ways. Male moths use their feathery antennae to detect the scent of female moths, sometimes from miles away! This ability helps them find a mate during the breeding season. Once they have mated, the female moth lays her eggs in a safe spot, like on a leaf or tree trunk.

Some moth species are exceptions to the solitary rule. For example, certain caterpillars, like those of the tent moth, live in groups and build communal silk shelters. These "tents" protect them while they feed and grow. However, once they turn into adult moths, they live on their own.

While moths might seem like simple creatures, their habits are crucial for their survival. Their nighttime activity helps them avoid predators, and their solitary lifestyle reduces competition for food. Moths also play a big role in nature, pollinating flowers and providing food for other animals. So, the next time you spot a moth fluttering near a light, remember—it has a busy and fascinating life.