

Horizons quiz

Can you identify this selection of fly-by-day Lepidoptera (butterflies to you and I!)

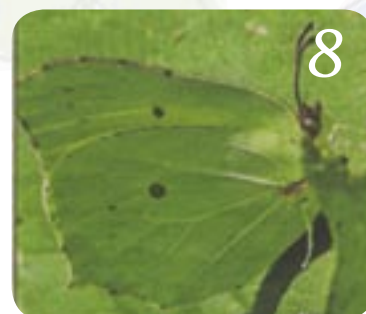
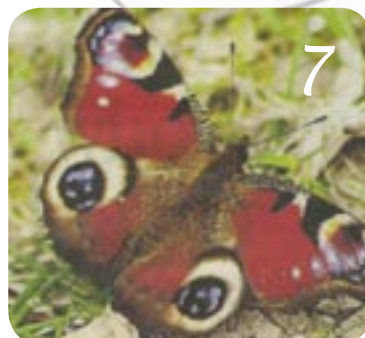
The spell of hot weather we have enjoyed this summer brought to mind the symbol of many summers: the butterfly. This delightful insect is, according to conservationists, more under threat now than ever before, and we all know the reasons why.

So serious is this situation that the Butterfly Conservation charity has, this summer, held a Save Our Butterflies Week.

In the wild it is becoming more and more difficult for butterflies to survive, let alone thrive. However, we can all do our bit. No matter how small your garden, school or centre's grounds you can include plants which support these delicate creatures. Buddleia is the most well known butterfly tempter – on sunny days they are simply covered in several species (if you're lucky). In spring the nectar-giving Aubretia, Honesty, Wallflower and Pansy are good. Summer and autumn nectar plants include Candytuft, Hebe, Honeysuckle, Lavender, Mint, Red Valerian and Marjoram. A small patch of nettles will support caterpillars and maybe even keep them from devouring your prize flower foliage.

So, take a look at these pictures and see if you can identify the different species. Answers are in very small text at the bottom of this page.

For more information see:
www.butterfly-conservation.org



Answers 1. Small White, 2. Common blue, 3. Marbled blue, 4. Small Copper, 5. Red Admiral, 6. Meadow Brown, 7. Peacock, 8. Brimstone