

LET'S GO
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Butterflies and caterpillars

www.lgoal.org

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Butterflies and caterpillars



Did you know there are about 60 different variety of butterflies found in the UK?

As summer advances there are plenty of opportunities for investigating butterflies in your garden if you have one, or from your home if you do not. Here are some ideas for activities.

Learn more about butterfly caterpillars and where they live. The Butterfly Conservation Trust has some great resources that shows butterflies and their caterpillars.

https://munchingcaterpillars.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/ID_guide_to_Butterflies_and_their_caterpillars1.pdf



Peacock butterfly caterpillars can be found on common nettles from May to July.

They are black with black spines and small white dots and hatch from eggs in communal webs.

Looking for Caterpillars

If you have access to an outdoor space spend some time outside hunting for caterpillars.

It is best to choose a warm sunny day. Caterpillars have six true legs but may have several pairs of 'prolegs' along their abdomen to help them cling to leaves or twigs.

They can be found low down on plants or among leaf litter as well as higher up in bushes and trees, remember to search all through the vegetation. Can you identify the caterpillars? Keep an eye on those that you find and watch them change.

Why not grow some plants to attract butterfly caterpillars into your garden or your windowsill? The Butterfly Conservation Trust have a full list on their website but here are a few –

- hop attract comma caterpillars,
- ivy attract common blue,
- nasturtium attract large and small white and green veined white butterflies.

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A comma caterpillar
and the butterfly



Looking for Caterpillars

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Watch a video about a caterpillar changing to a chrysalis - a symbol of hope and change for these difficult times.

Photos from Wildlife insight

<http://www.wildlifeinsight.com/british-butterflies/comma-butterfly-polytonia-c-album/>

