



Moth Challenge Test:

Is it a moth? Or is it a butterfly?

Read the following characteristics below, and identify if it refers to only moths, only butterflies, or if both moths and butterflies share that characteristic. Circle your answers.

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|--|------|-----------|------|
| 1. Spins a cocoon: | Moth | Butterfly | Both |
| 2. Has knobs on the ends of its antenna: | Moth | Butterfly | Both |
| 3. Has scales on its wings: | Moth | Butterfly | Both |
| 4. Flies at night: | Moth | Butterfly | Both |
| 5. Has mouthparts called a proboscis: | Moth | Butterfly | Both |
| 6. Rests with its wings spread flat: | Moth | Butterfly | Both |

Answers are on the back.



Answers:

1. Spins a cocoon: Moth Butterfly Both
Only the moth spins a cocoon. Butterflies form a chrysalis.
2. Has knobs on the ends of its antenna: Moth Butterfly Both
Antennae are a key feature separating moths from butterflies. Only the butterfly has knobs or a knobby hook on the end of its antenna. Moth antennae are plumose (feathery) or simply straight.
3. Has scales on its wings: Moth Butterfly Both
Both moths and butterflies have scales on their wings. Scales cover the wings of moths and hairs and scales cover other body parts. Scales are made of chitin, the same material as an insect's exoskeleton.
4. Flies at night: Moth Butterfly Both
The majority of moths fly at night. The majority of butterflies fly in daylight.
5. Has mouthparts called a proboscis: Moth Butterfly Both
The mouths of both moths and butterflies are in the shape of a sucking tube called a proboscis.
6. Rests with its wing spread flat: Moth Butterfly Both
Moths sit in a resting position with their wings open flat or to their sides while butterflies sit with their wings raised over their backs.



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