

To describe the characteristics of something

Report Butterflies

written in 3rd person

introduction of what you are going to write about

Butterflies belong to the order of insects known as Lepidoptera. This means they have **scaly** bodies and wings, and a feeding tube on the front of the head, called a proboscis, coiled up when not in use. Their wings may be large, **brightly coloured** and **patterned**. Butterflies are found in most parts of the world and different species are adapted to the environments in which they live.

factual
adjectives
often
about
colour,
position
and size

the paragraphs separate the different subjects

Like all insects, the butterfly's body is divided into three parts: head, thorax and abdomen. On the head are a pair of antennae, used for smelling, and two large compound eyes. Three pairs of legs and two pairs of wings - fore and hind - grow from the thorax. The wings are made of very thin membrane, stretched over a framework of 'veins', **in the same way as the skin of an umbrella** is stretched over the frame. Tiny overlapping scales on the membrane give the wings their pattern and colour.

passive
voice to be
formal
impersonal

use of comparison for effect and to clarify

general terms

this paragraph is about males and females

Male butterflies tend to be more brightly coloured than the females but the females are larger. They also have bigger wings, enabling them to fly even when they are carrying a heavy burden of eggs. A female butterfly may lay up to 3,000 eggs, always choosing the appropriate plant for the caterpillars to feed on. However, usually only one or two eggs out of a hundred hatch out and many others die as they grow through the stages of **larva** (caterpillar) and **chrysalis** (pupa) to become an **imago** (adult butterfly).

technical words

this paragraph is about feeding

The imago usually has a lifespan of only a few weeks. It feeds on nectar from flowers or other sweet food, such as over-ripe fruit, which it sucks up through the proboscis. This food provides energy to fly and reproduce, but **most butterflies** do not need any body-building foods to see them through their short lives. In fact, **a few species** have mouthparts that do not open so they cannot feed.

KS2