



Welcome to Spike Dino's daily post for children learning from home.

### GARDENS; Butterflies

Spike likes exploring nature and looked in the Natural History gallery and found lots of displays of insects including these beautiful butterflies.

Spike prefers to see them flying around, but has begun to learn about them and to identify them from these specimens.

In this picture Spike has spotted some he has seen in the gardens and some he hadn't heard of. He knows there are 56 species of butterfly in Britain. But in the last 50 years numbers of them have fallen because their habitats have disappeared.

In the wild butterflies find food in several places. They drink nectar from flowers especially if they are in warm, sheltered places. These flowers include marigolds, bluebells, buttercups, hyacinth, lavender, black berry bushes and thistles, plus they like rotting plants and overripe fruit. Spike is going to make sure there are flowers around for butterflies to feed from.



- |                  |                |                       |                  |
|------------------|----------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1. Large skipper | 4. Small white | 7. Red Admiral        | 10. Gatekeeper   |
| 2. Small skipper | 5. Orange tip  | 8 Small tortoiseshell | 11. Meadow Brown |
| 3. Large white   | 6. Peacock     | 9. Comma              | 12. Holly blue   |

**Activity 1;** Have a look for nature in your garden for where you might find butterflies. Remember flowers are great for them to feed from. Don't forget, butterflies begin life as caterpillars so if you spot some it won't be long before they become butterflies.

**Activity 2;** Butterfly print - use the template below to create your own colourful butterfly. You could colour it or use paint on one side and fold it to make both of the wings the same.

Share your pictures tagging @MaidstoneMuseum and #SpikeDinosAdventures or by emailing [museumeducation@maidstone.gov.uk](mailto:museumeducation@maidstone.gov.uk)

The wings on a butterfly are symmetrical. Colour the wings so they are the same. Or use paint and paint one half of the butterfly. Then while the paint is wet, fold it over, smooth the two sides together and then open it up to see your beautiful butterfly.

