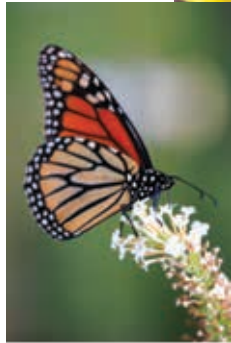


How do Butterflies Eat?

Butterfly Straws

Butterflies have no teeth, so how do they eat? As caterpillars, they only eat leaves. Have you ever seen a butterfly on a flower up close? They have a long straw-like mouth called a **proboscis** that they use to suck up nectar from flowers, the juice in fruit growing and on the ground, and minerals in water. Butterflies don't eat, they drink!



Butterflies Feed Us!

Butterflies also help us eat. When they crawl on flowers to get food for themselves, butterflies and bees collect pollen on their hairy bodies. They carry this pollen to the next flower, and that pollinates the flower. Pollination is the way some flowers turn into fruits and vegetables that we eat. The next time you see a butterfly, say thank you!

