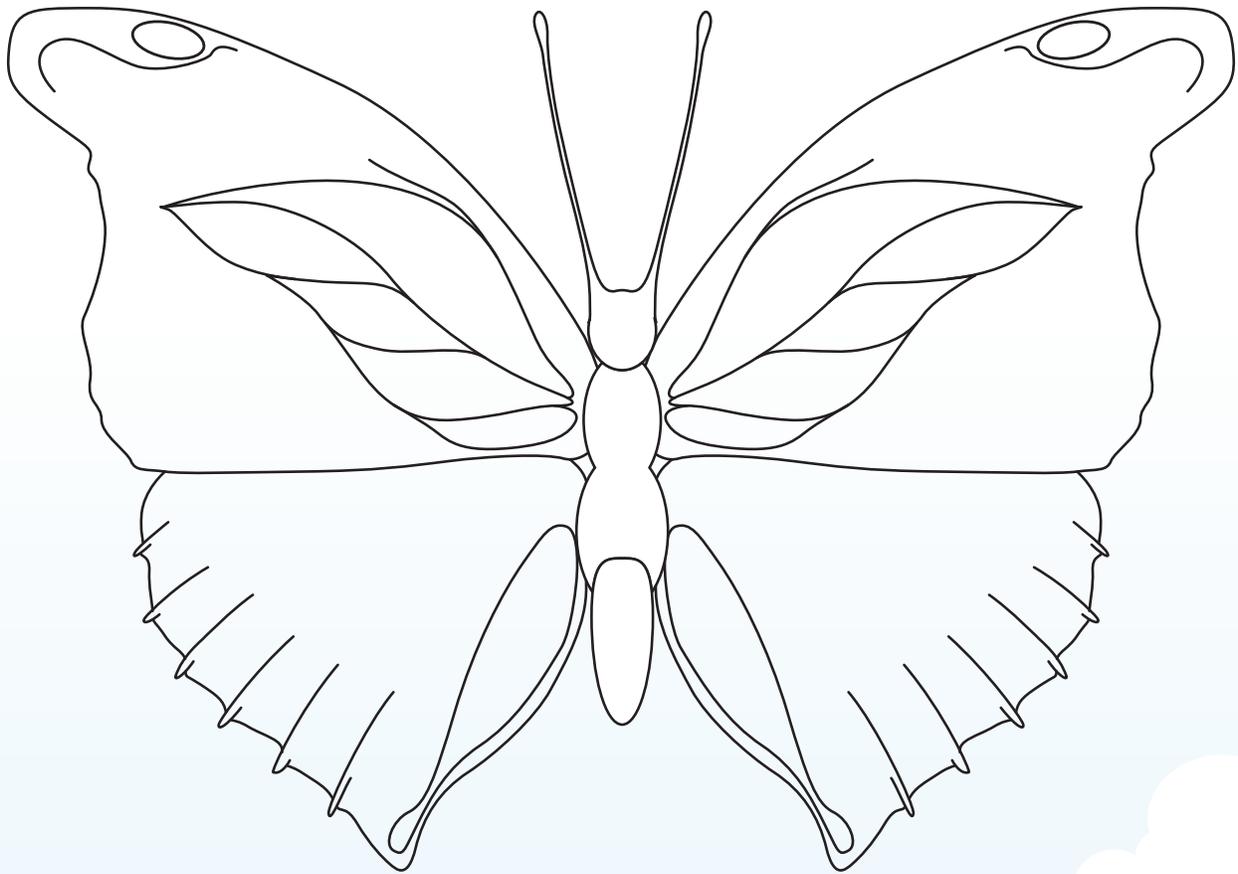


# Butterflies Come in All Shapes, Sizes and Colors

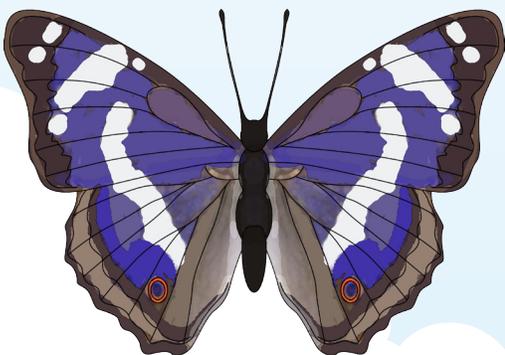
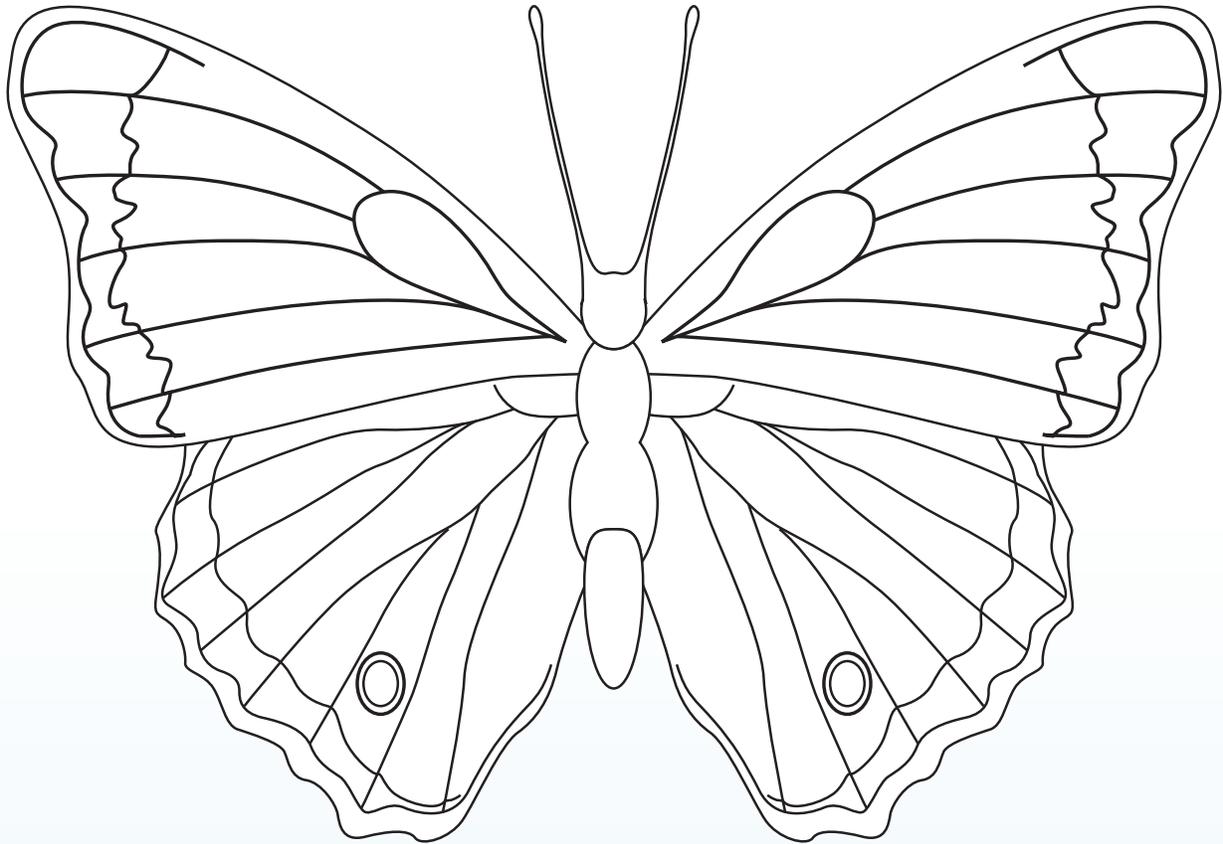
There are many different kinds of butterflies. They live in many different places, and they come in all sizes, shapes and colors. Each has two names, a common name and a scientific name. You might have heard some of the common names, like Swallowtails and Birdwings, Skippers, Mariposa and Emperors. Some have funny names, and look really strange, like the Stinky Leaf Wing. Each one is suited to its environment, but they all need warmth to survive, just like people. Let's explore some of the many different kinds of butterflies.



## Orion, or "Stinky Leaf Wing" ( *Historis odius* ) – South America

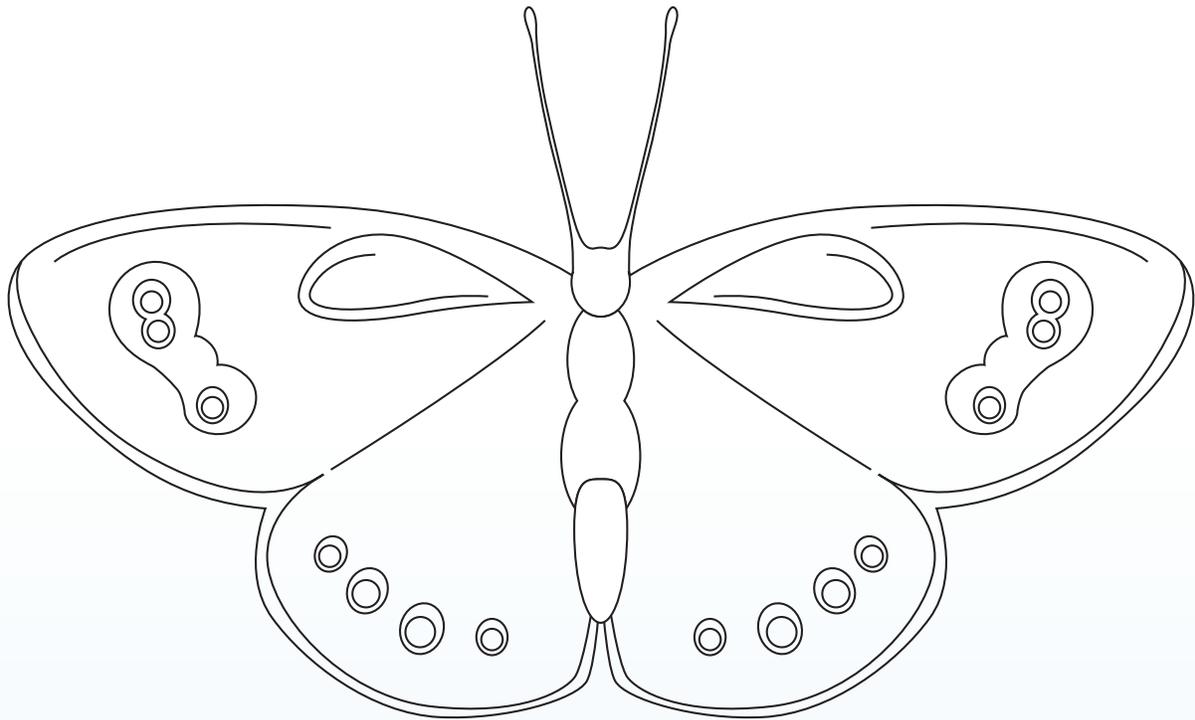


A chocolate brown butterfly with identifying white spots at the top of the wings, and inner panels of orange that can be seen to glow in the sunlight. Named after Orion the hunter, because sometimes these butterflies play at fighting; in South America, where they are often found, groups of them are sometimes heard crashing around as they chase after each other. They blend so easily with their environment that they're not easily seen, so spottings are treasured by butterfly hunters.



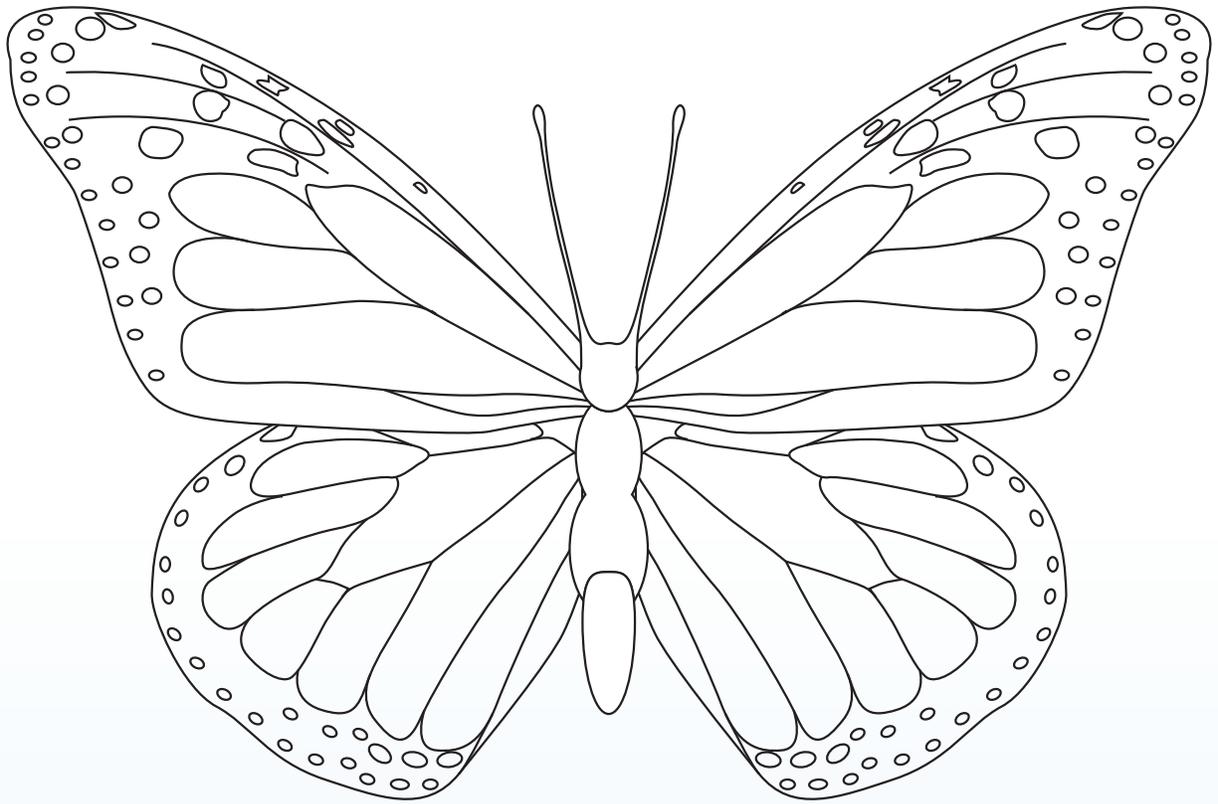
### Purple Emperor ( *Apatura iris* ) - Europe

The Purple Emperor is a large brown butterfly with iridescent wings that shine blue or purple in the light. Unlike other butterflies, it feeds on honeydew from aphids, and lives at the tops of trees, so sighting an Emperor is very special for a butterfly watcher. Emperor caterpillars feed on pussy willow plants. The Purple Emperor butterfly lives in the wooded areas of central Europe.



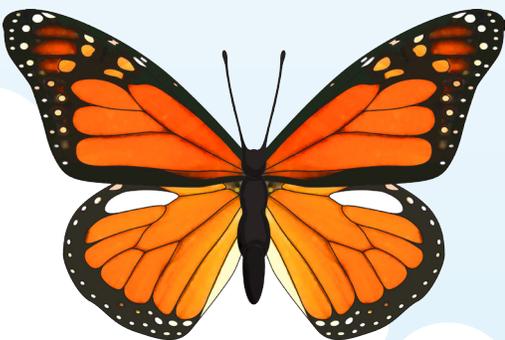
### Woodland Ringlet (*Erebia medusa*) - Europe

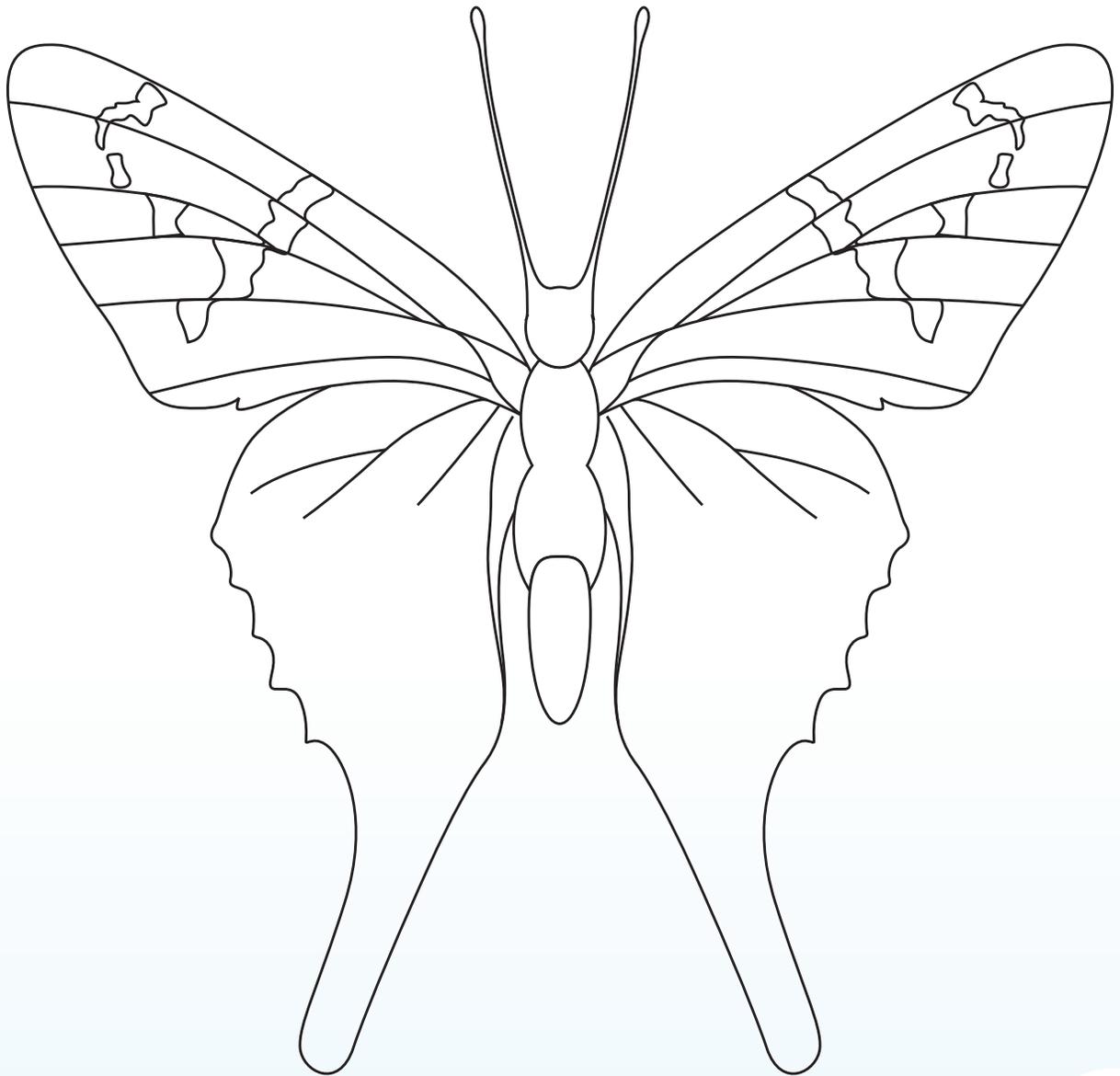
The Woodland Ringlet loves meadows and grasslands of Europe, and flies low in to the ground so it is easily spotted. It is one of the few species that has the same markings on both sides of its wings. Easily confused with another, similar, butterfly that has elongated orange, light brown, or red spots: the Almond Eyed Ringlet (*Erebia albertanus*).



### Monarch ( *Danaus plexippus* ) – North America

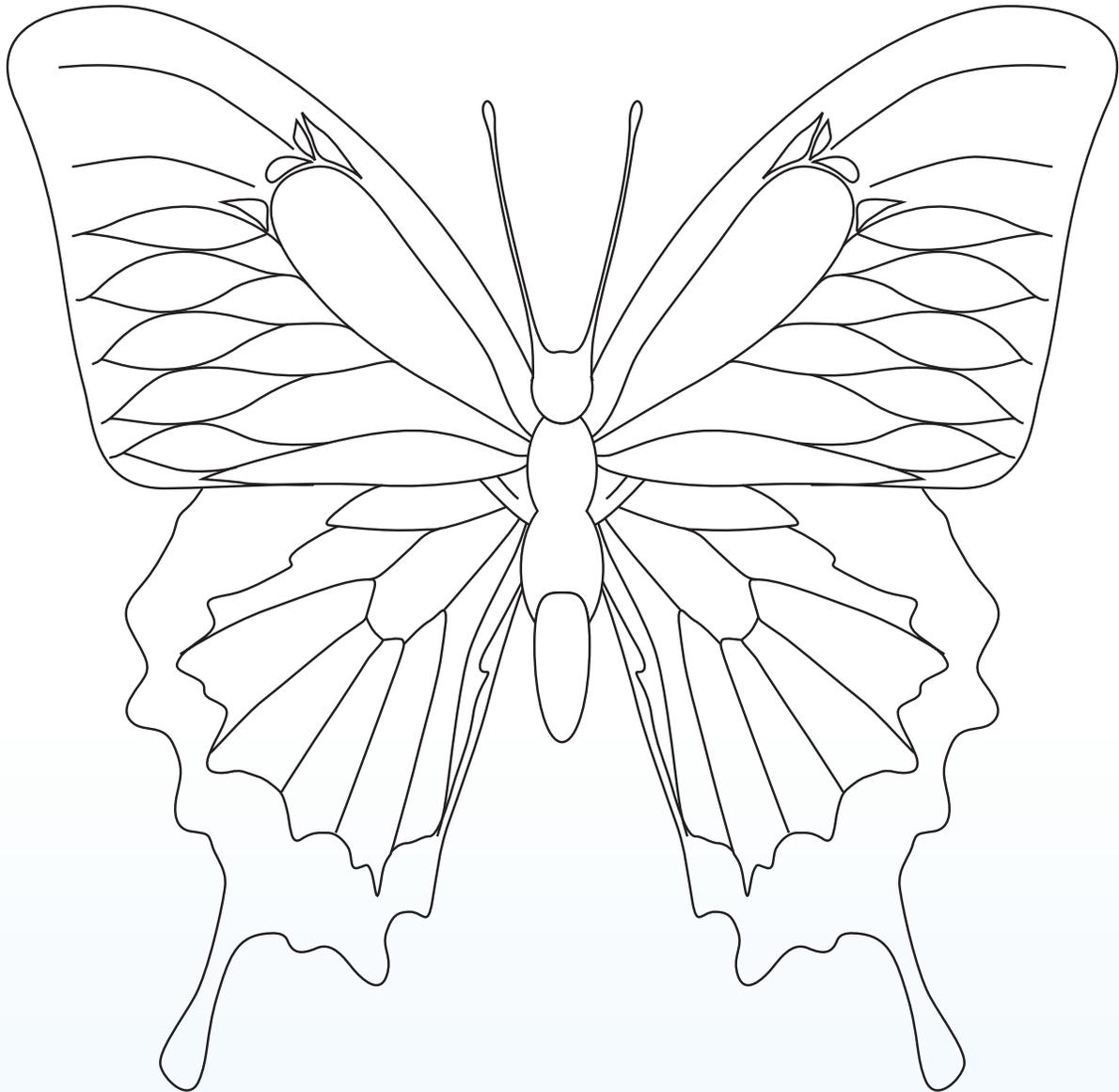
The Monarch butterfly keeps its bright colors to tell birds “don’t eat me, I’m poisonous!” They are. They get this poison from eating the milkweed plants and the nectar of milkweeds. The chemical in milkweeds gets into the monarch butterfly and if a bird eats the butterfly it doesn’t just taste bad, it makes birds vomit. The butterflies are counting on the birds to remember that, and leave them alone. Monarchs love open spaces, such as fields and meadows, and marshes. You can spot them by the sides of roads all over the United States and South and Central America, as well as Southern Canada, Australia, Hawaii and a few other islands in the Pacific. Monarchs migrate from north to south over the winter.





## Skippers

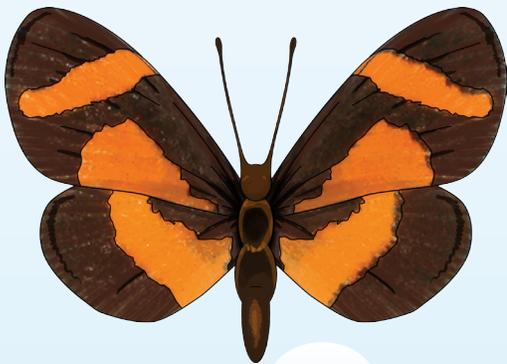
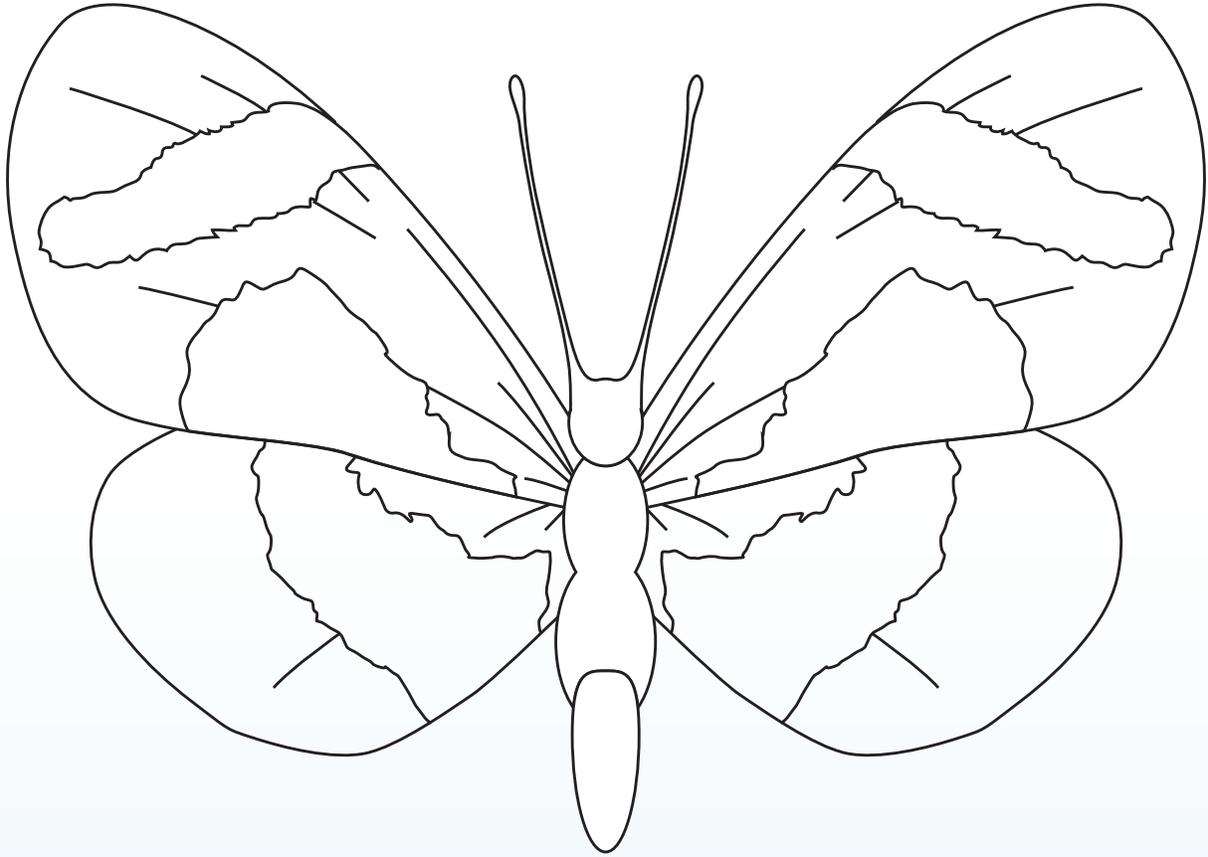
The Arctic Skipper makes its home in the woods and glades of California and loves sweets: it feeds on the nectar of flowers. Its caterpillars love purple reedgrass. You can often find them flitting about besides streams of water. The Desert Skipper makes its home in any moist spot or thorn forest it can find in the harsh desert lands. It can be found in Arizona, Texas, and Mexico. The iridescent blue Long Tailed Skipper hangs upside down under leaves, and while it lives on nectar as an adult, when it is a caterpillar it enjoys wisteria, beans and peas.



## Swallowtail



The Zebra Swallowtail has black wings with a long tail that comes to a special tip, reminding us of a kind of bird called a swallow. Butterflies sip nectar from all sorts of flowers, and lay their eggs on the lower leaves of plants, especially pawpaw plants. These are big butterflies, when their wings are stretched wide, they can measure as much as four inches across! The caterpillars of the Black Swallowtail love to eat their parsley, celery, carrots and dill. You can find them all over the eastern U.S. and into Canada, in deserts and marshes, suburbs and farms, roadsides and creek sides. The Tiger Swallowtails also live in the eastern U.S., but their caterpillars prefer various trees, so they are often found in woods and at the edges of forests or in parks. Swallowtails are very adaptable little fellows.



### Elf (*Microtia elva*)

Finally, this little butterfly, like so many others, enjoys flower nectar and open fields. Most often found from Venezuela through Central America and Mexico, it can also be seen in Missouri, Texas and Arizona.