

Butterflies

November/December 2020

8

Eight is a bit of a tricky number, because if you're counting fingers you'll need two hands, and that transition to the second hand can get awkward. (Ever see a kid count by touching fingers to his nose?) Once you get past five, however, counting objects (butterflies, for example) proves a lot easier than counting fingers.

Orange

Orange has its own magic. It's the only color that has the same name as a fruit (avocado and eggplant don't count), and since it's a "secondary" color you can create it using yellow and red. Best of all, it's so much easier to say than yellow.

Where in the WORLD?

Butterflies live on all landmasses, except for Antarctica.

● Butterflies



Reading Resource

Every title in the *Ranger Rick Zootles* series is designed to be used for fun and learning, and as a reading resource as well. The pages are written simply and address various stages of emerging literacy, and they encourage new readers to exercise their new skills at just the right level. Reading *Ranger Rick Zootles* together will provide "together time" for you and your child—and reinforce vocabulary, comprehension, and early reading skills, too.

It's a ZOO out there!

Butterflies are wonderful to watch. Many zoos, botanical gardens, and even natural history museums have live butterfly exhibits during the warm season. If you live near one of these "butterfly zoos," your family may enjoy a trip there after reading *Butterflies*. You'll reinforce learning and foster careful observation skills if you look for the butterfly features and behaviors mentioned in these pages, as well as the following:

- What kinds of flowers do each of the species seem to like best?
- In addition to being beautiful, does the butterfly's coloring help camouflage it?
- If you stand very still, do the butterflies seem to know that you are there?
- Locate the spot where the chrysalises are kept and watch the butterflies emerge.

Orange You Glad You Know Orange?

Orange

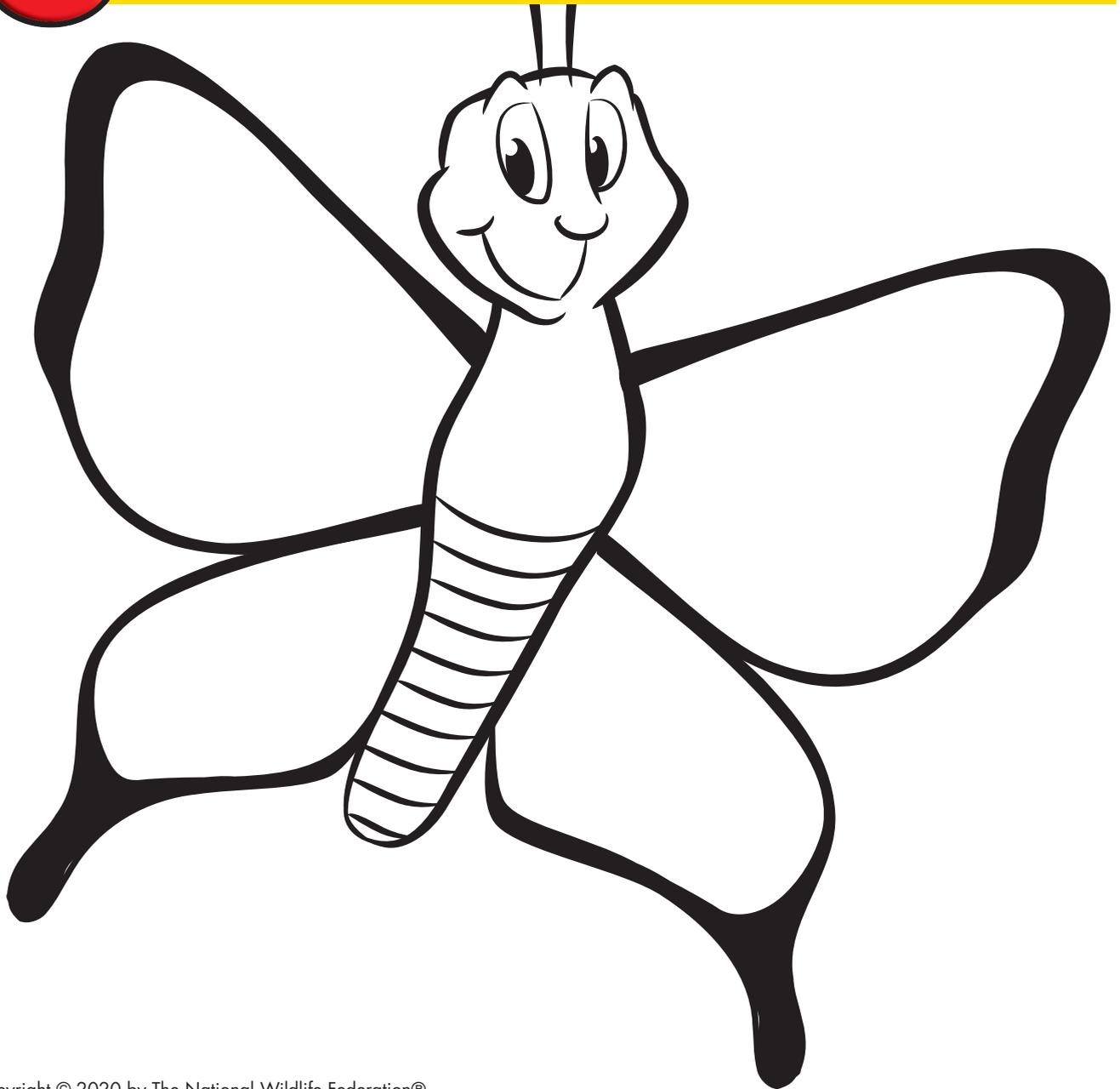
Oranges aren't the only things that are orange. How many things can you find on this page that are orange or have orange on them? Circle them with an orange crayon or marker. Can you think of any other things that are orange? Get a piece of paper and draw them!



Crazy Eights

8

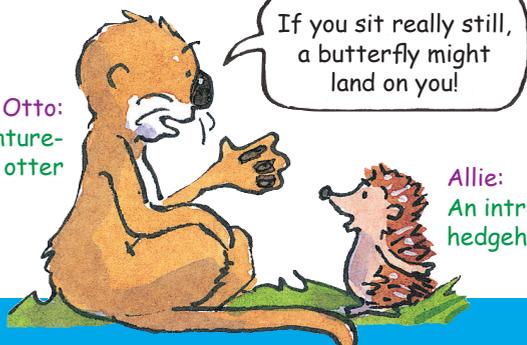
Here's your chance to decorate your very own butterfly. Draw **8** spots, **8** stripes, or **8** of anything else you'd like on its wings. Now color your butterfly and give it a name! Draw **8** flowers all around it so it can have nectar to eat.



What ELSE can we DO?

- **Butterflies Float (p. 1)** introduces the featured color, orange. Nothing is as magical as mixing colors, so seize the moment to help your preschooler discover what red and yellow can do by making and coloring a butterfly.
- **ZOOTLES TO-DO:** Flatten a round coffee filter and with a very wet brush, dab it with red watercolor paint. Streak the red with lots of yellow paint to make orange, and spray with water. Dry overnight or with a hairdryer. Now pinch the top and bottom of the filter together to make the butterfly's wings and fasten with a pipe cleaner to make the body. Keep the two ends sticking out for antennae.
- **A Butterfly's Body (p. 2-3)** goes beyond the creature's beauty and down to the basics. Just how does a butterfly work? Surprisingly, butterfly bodies have to do many of the same things that human bodies do, even though we don't look anything alike.
- **ZOOTLES TO-DO:** Make a chart that will help your child compare and contrast humans and butterflies. At the top of a piece of poster board, label two columns: "butterfly" and "human." Along the side, write down some functions that butterflies and humans share, such as "move," "see," and "smell." Have your child help you fill in the chart with either pictures or words.
- They may be delicate, but **Butterflies Fight Back! (p. 4-5)** shows us that butterflies have a few tricks up their wings to keep predators at bay.
- **ZOOTLES TO-DO:** Take four or five sheets of different colored paper (old wrapping paper would be fun) and cut out some two-inch-long butterflies and put them on a piece of paper. Then cut out lots of other little shapes and sprinkle them over the butterflies. See how long it takes your child to pick out the butterflies.
- One way that butterflies and people differ is in the way they develop. **A Butterfly is Born (p. 8-9)** illustrates the four stages of butterfly metamorphosis.

Otto:
An adventure-
loving otter



Allie:
An intrepid
hedgehog

- **ZOOTLES TO-DO:** Have the stages of butterfly development appear more real for your child by helping her act them out. She can begin as an egg, curled up tightly on the floor, but then hatch into a wiggly caterpillar, eating everything in sight. Then have her freeze into a chrysalis that slowly transforms into a beautiful butterfly, which flits around the house!
- **Blossoms and Butterflies (p. 10-11)** explores the symbiotic relationship between insects and flowers in a light and witty way. Try the following activity to help make this relationship more concrete for your child.
- **ZOOTLES TO-DO:** Bring home a big Stargazer lily from the floral section of the supermarket. (Make sure the fuzzy stamens haven't been picked off!) Your child's finger can be the butterfly that gently discovers the stamens. When he touches the stamens, they'll wiggle and cover his finger with pollen. Look at the flower's parts through a magnifying glass, if you have one.
- **Mari's Journey (p. 12-15)** presents the amazing, but true, tale of monarch butterfly migration. One migration route stays west of the Rockies and ends in central and southern California, but monarchs that live east of the Rockies, like Mari, head to south central Mexico for the winter.
- **ZOOTLES TO-DO:** It's time to grab the globe or get out the atlas. Find a map of North America and then locate where you live. Then trace Mari's flight from Canada to Mexico, noting all of the interesting places she may have stopped on the way. Where might you stop to rest if you were a butterfly?
- Just when we've mastered the concept of "orange," **Butterfly Eyes (p.16)** makes us confront something that seems impossible: Butterflies can see colors that we can't see.
- **ZOOTLES TO-DO:** Take three-inch strips of colored cellophane—perhaps saved from holiday food gifts—and have your child hold them over her eyes as she explores the back yard (or even have her put on a pair of sunglasses). Does she notice how everything looks just the same, but different?

RangerRick

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Resource Corner