

Butterflies in Alaska

Bees are not the only insects that pollinate flowers! Flies, moths, beetles, wasps, and butterflies are all important pollinators.



Because they have small bodies and thin legs, butterflies are less efficient at moving pollen than bees. However, they still pollinate many wildflowers, including salvias and sunflowers. Butterflies often visit round flowers with flared petals that lead to narrow throats that conceal nectar. Butterflies land on the wide petals, then delicately probe the flower's *nectary* (the gland that produces nectar) with their long *proboscis* (tongue).

Did You Know? Butterflies typically visit brightly colored flowers. They are one of the few insects able to see red! Butterflies have good vision but a weak sense of smell.

There are about 80 species of butterflies in Alaska. They have many adaptations to help survive in cold Arctic environments:

- Overwintering: In the winter, some butterflies will

