

Butterfly Memory Game

Discover Alaska butterflies with a memory game!

Materials Needed:

Two copies of Butterfly Memory Cards (or draw your own), scissors.

Optional: Cardstock, glue.

Prepare Your Cards:

Print the game cards. To make them sturdier, glue to cardstock. Cut out all 12 pairs (24 cards in total) along the solid lines.

How To Play:

Lay the 24 cards face-down. Take turns flipping over two cards. If the two cards match, the player keeps the pair and goes again. If they don't match, the player leaves the cards where they are and turns them face-down again. The next player takes their turn.

Continue playing until the cards have all been matched and collected. The player with the most pairs is the winner.

To adapt the game for younger children, play with fewer pairs. Choose butterflies that look the most different from each other.

Look at the butterfly cards and discuss what you see. What kinds of colors, shapes, and sizes do you observe?

Observe Butterflies:

There are about 80 different species of butterflies in Alaska. Keep an eye out for butterflies as the weather gets warmer! Do you recognize any of the butterflies from the game?

Right: Canadian Tiger Swallowtail (*Papilio canadensis*)

UAMN Virtual Junior Curators: Pollinators

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 use their proboscis (tongue) to reach the nectary (the gland that produces nectar) with their long proboscis (tongue).