

Biology: Butterfly Identification

ANSWER KEY

Exercise: 1

Instructions: There are 168 butterfly species known to live in Idaho. You can use the visual key to identify the species listed below. To use the key, compare your butterfly with each of the choices given in the key. At each page choose the option that matches your species. Pay close attention to detail. If you are careful, it should lead you to its page where you can learn its name and get to know how it lives in nature.

1. Common Name: Indra Swallowtail

Latin Name: Papilio indra

Diet: Caterpillar eats leaves of the Parsley family, adults eat nectar

Habitat: Dry open areas such as deserts, canyons. Also woodlands, mountains

and pine forests



2. Common Name: Clodius Parnassian Latin Name: *Parnassius clodius*

Diet: Caterpillar eats leaves of the bleeding heart family, adults eat nectar Habitat: Woodlands, alpine meadows, forest edges, and moist forests



3. Common Name: Northern White Skipper Latin Name: *Heliopetes ericetorum*

Diet: Caterpillar feeds on the Mallow family, adults eat nectar

Habitat: Woodlands, chaparral, deserts, rocky areas along waterways



4. Common Name: Queen

Latin Name: Danaus gilippus

Diet: Caterpillar feeds on Milkweeds, adults on nectar

Habitat: Fields, open woodlands, deserts



5. Common Name: Dainty Sulfur Latin Name: *Nathalis iode*

Diet: Caterpillars feed on sunflower family, adults eat nectar

Habitat: Fields, grasslands, disturbed areas, rivers, roadsides, and railroads



ANSWER KEY

6. Common Name: Two-Tailed Swallowtail Latin Name: *Papilio multicaudata*

Diet: Caterpillars feed on trees and shrubs including ash and cherry, adults on

nectar.

Habitat: Canyonlands, foothills, valleys, woodlands, and gardens

7 Common Name: Pine White

Diet: Caterpillars feed on conifers, adults feed on nectar of yellow flowers

Habitat: Coniferous forests

Latin Name: Neophasia menpia

8. Common Name: Mead's Sulfur Latin Name: *Colias meadii*

Diet: Caterpillars feed on the pea family, adults eat nectar

Habitat: Higher elevations, alpine meadows, rocky slopes, also in forests and

streams

9. Common Name: Pale Swallowtail Latin Name: *Papilio eurymedon*

Diet: Variety of trees and shrubs including cherry, coffeeberry, wild lilac, and

mountain balm. Adults feed on nectar.

Habitat: Open hilly areas, scrubby woodlands, near hilltops

10. Common Name: Milbert's Tortoiseshell Latin Name: *Nymphalis milbertii*

Diet: Leaves of nettle, adults feed on nectar and sap

Habitat: Anywhere, often in cool areas such as woodlands and higher elevations

11. Common Name: Weidemeyer's Admiral Latin Name: *Limenitis weidemeyerii*

Diet: Leaves of willow, cottonwoods, poplars, ocean spray, and serviceberry

Habitat: Streams, woodlands, aspen groves, mountainsides, canyons, and in towns

12. Common Name: Sara's Orangetip (Pacific Orangetip)

Latin Name: Anthocharis sara

Diet: Mostly on members of the mustard family, adults feed on nectar

Habitat: Generally open places such as meadows, fields, ridgetops, canyons, and

deserts













