



Content for Development of a Short Film

Topic: Biodiversity

Keywords: Biodiversity, Biodiverse, Butterflies, Pollination, Science

Background Information:

Did you ever wonder why there are so many different animals in the world? Or so many different kinds of plants? The answer, using the scientific word, is biodiversity.

Biodiversity is the way the world connects all life, from an ugly old toad to a weed to a beautifully colored butterfly on a summer day.

If you like butterflies, you can't help notice how many different kinds of butterflies there are in the world. There aren't just one or two kinds but *thousands* of species of butterflies. There are as many as twenty thousand species worldwide. Butterflies are biodiverse.

The life cycle of a butterfly connects to the life cycles of other plants and animals. That's why they're adapted to live in different environments. You can find butterflies on the banks of rivers and streams, at the edges of forests and lakes, along the side of the road, and even basking in the sun in your backyard. Butterflies live almost everywhere on the planet.

Butterflies do important work that helps maintain biodiversity. Even though some adult butterflies do not feed, many sip flower nectar for energy. The plant makes nectar to attract the butterflies in order to spread its pollen to other plants so they can reproduce. Butterflies are just as important as birds or bees as pollinators.

Even though their body parts are basically the same, butterflies come in an amazing variety of shapes, sizes, patterns, and colors. Some colors and patterns warn predators that they will taste bad if they decide to eat them. Other, duller colors help the butterfly blend into its habitat so that it's hard for predators to see them. Whatever markings a butterfly has, you can be sure it plays an important role in living and reproducing in its environment.

It's almost impossible to think of a world without butterflies. Their biodiversity not only gives us beautiful things to look at, but it can teach us about how the pieces of nature fit together.

Usually a decline in the quality of a habitat will cause a decline in the number of butterflies that live there. Over time, that could threaten their biodiversity, and, in turn, that would affect other forms of life. We celebrate all the different butterflies of the world. They bring grace and joy, and they bring stability to our lives.