BUTTERFLIES & MOTHS

Guidelines
To know there are around 60 Butterfly species in Britain and over 2500 species of Moths.
To have some knowledge on the differences between Butterflies and Moths;
e.g.    Moths fly at night while butterflies fly during the day
    Butterflies tend to be more vibrantly coloured than moths
    Butterfly antennas are club shaped, while those of moths are feathery
To be able to identify popular species of Butterflies, e.g. Cabbage White, Gate Keeper, Red Admiral, Peacock, etc.
To be able to identify certain species of moths, e.g. Poplar Hawk-moth, Lime Hawk-moth, Privet Hawk-moth, Cinnabar, etc.

Key Points
To have an understanding of the life cycle of a butterfly and moth;
Egg → Caterpillar → Chrysalis → Butterfly/Moth

To have an understanding of certain Environmental Factors which affect Butterflies & Moths;
Red Admiral & Snowdrops - Snowdrops flower between January and February, while the Red Admiral Butterfly has flown between May and September. Before 1990’s seeing the two together would have been nearly impossible.
Cinnabar Moth & Ragwort - The Cinnabar moth lays its eggs on ragwort leaves which are rich in alkaloid poisons. Once hatched the caterpillars eat the poisonous leaves and store the poison. This is then passed on through to the chrysalis and finally to the Moth. Predators such as birds soon learn not to eat them!

Teaching, Testing Ideas & Resources
School’s minister Jim Knight has launched a new children’s website as part of celebrations marking the 40th Anniversary of the charity Butterfly conservation. The website aims to build on children’s natural fascination with butterflies. It is also an excellent aid for Teachers/Instructors.
www.butterfly-conservation.org

Recommended Reading
- Butterflies and Moths of Britain and Europe (Collins Nature Guide) by Helga Hofmann and Thomas Marktanner

Recommended Websites
www.ukbutterflies.co.uk
www.ukmoths.org.uk