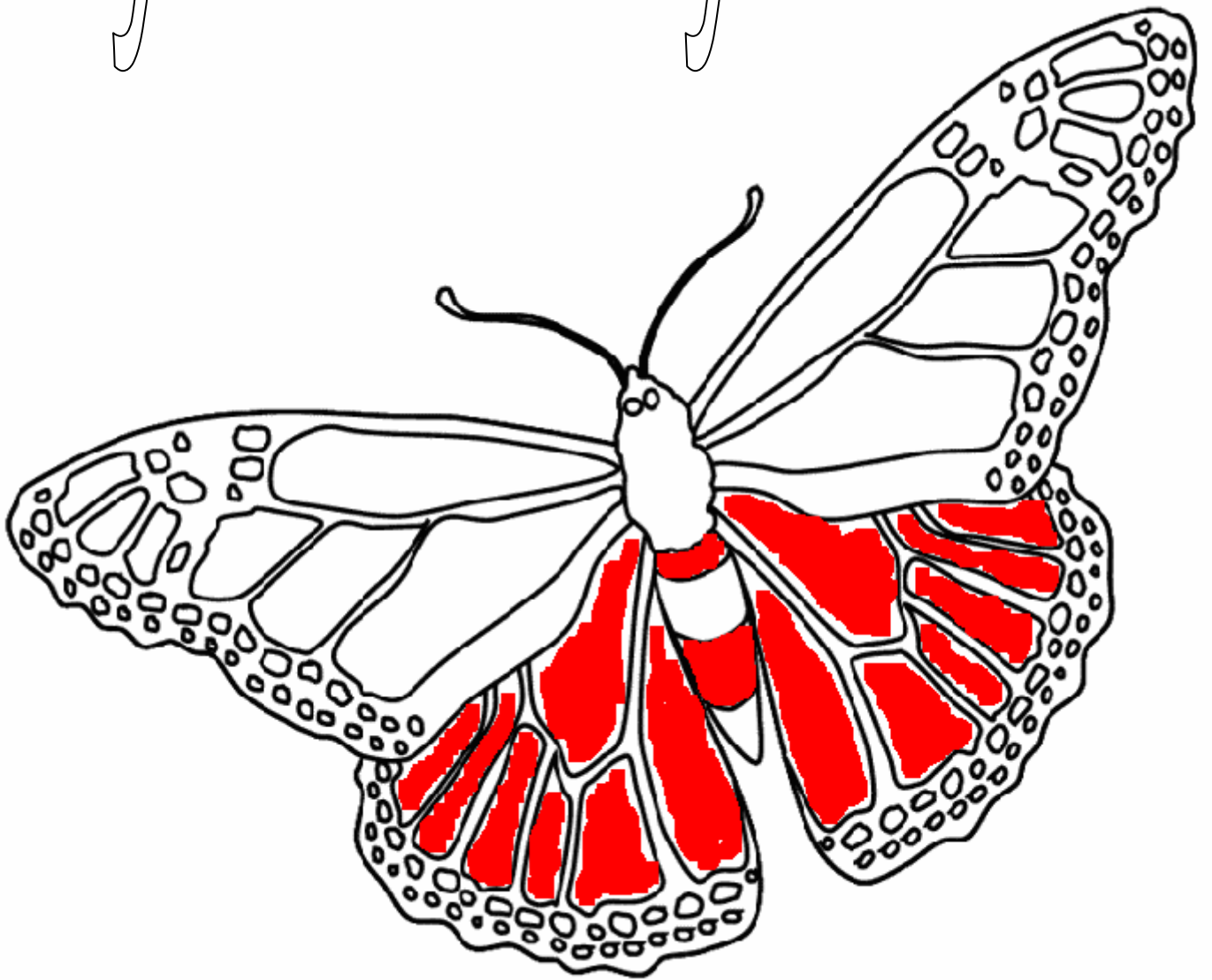


# My Butterfly Guide





Meadow Brown

The Meadow Brown is found in European meadows. Males are less colourful, with smaller eyespots, and much reduced orange areas on the upper forewings. They are also much more active and range far about, while females fly less and often may not away from the area where they grew up.

A variable number of smaller eyespots are usually found on the hindwing undersides. These may number up to 12 per individual butterfly, with up to 6 on each wing.



Speckled Wood

Females have brighter and more distinct markings than males. The wingspan of both males and females is 4 - 4.5 cm, although males tend to be slightly smaller than females. Males are highly territorial and will defend their territory against intruding males.

Males have either 3 or 4 upper hindwing eyespots. The fourth spot shows only in flight.



Comma

The Comma butterfly can be identified by the shape of the wings. The top of the wings is orange-brown. The underside is brown and there is a distinctive white mark on the hindwing, which gives this butterfly its name.



Brimstone

On the upper side the male is sulphur yellow and the female white with a greenish tinge but both have an orange spot in the center of each wing. They never settle with their wings open and from the underside the sexes are more difficult to separate but the female is still paler. Their wing shape is unique among British butterflies (although there are similar, closely related species in southern and eastern Europe)



Peacock

The peacock butterfly has red and blue colouring and large eyespots. They sit out the winter months in almost complete darkness awaiting a sufficient rise in temperature to entice them outside into spring.

They have an audio-visual defence system to deter predators during the winter. They flap their wings to briefly reveal the bright eyespots and produced a series of high pitched squeaking sounds to ward off intruders.



Silver Y

It is thought that the Silver Y keeps flying until its resources have been used, this moth frequently passes over suitable habitat, where other individuals have stopped. The Silver Y frequently breeds upon arrival in the UK but it is thought that few caterpillars survive the winter. The caterpillars may be seen any time from spring to autumn and feed on many wild and cultivated plants, clovers, nettles, and some garden vegetables.



Red Admiral

A nymphalid butterfly (*Vanessa atalanta*) that is common in both Europe and America, has broad orange-red bands on the forewings, and feeds chiefly on nettles in the larval stage



Six spot burnet

The Six-spot Burnet (*Zygaena filipendulae*) is a day-flying moth of the family Zygaenidae. It is a common species throughout Europe.



Painted lady

The Painted Lady is a large butterfly (wing span 5-9 cm (2 - 2 7/8 in)) identified by the black and white corners of its mainly deep orange, black-spotted wings. It has 5 white spots in the black forewing tips and while the orange areas may be pale here and there, there are no clean white dots in them. The hindwings carry 4 small submarginal eyespots on dorsal and ventral sides.



Cinnabar

Like several Arctiidae moth larvae, the Cinnabar caterpillars can turn cannibalistic. Females lay up to 300 eggs, usually in clusters of 30 to 60. Initially the larvae are pale yellow but later larval stages develop the jet black and orange/yellow striped colouring They feed ravenously and can grow up to 30mm. Cinnabar caterpillars are voracious eaters and large populations can strip entire patches of ragwort.



Hummingbird  
Hawmoth

The **Hummingbird Hawk-moth** is a species of hawk moth with a long proboscis, and regularly hovers, making an audible humming noise. These two features make it look remarkably like a hummingbird when it feeds on flowers. It flies during the day, especially in bright sunshine, but also at dusk, dawn, and even in the rain.