

NAT THEO PODCAST

BUTTERFLY & MOTH

Scavenger Hunt
& Devotional



“Your teachings are worth more
to me than thousands of pieces
of gold and silver.”

Psalm 119:72



THE NAT THEO PODCAST
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HOW MANY BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS CAN YOU FIND?

- Best location: Garden or areas with many flowers. Near a light in the evening.
- If you do not find everything, extend this search over a few days or weeks, searching often for magnificent butterflies and moths!
- If you have one, bring a magnifying glass to study the insects' details closely, along with a nature journal and colored pencils to sketch.
- After your adventure, read the devotional on the following page.



Eggs on a leaf



A chrysalis (look beneath leaves!)



Caterpillar



Caterpillar poop (called frass) on a leaf beneath where they've been eating.



Flying moth



Butterfly collecting nectar while pollinating



Flying butterfly



Moth by a light

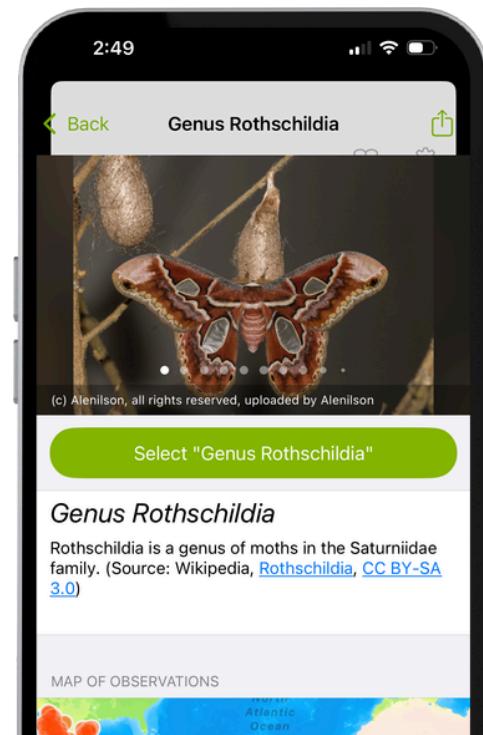


A leaf with bites taken out (maybe by caterpillars!)



A dead butterfly or moth. Many species live only a few weeks, but you can study and appreciate it. Preserve it by freezing it for a couple of days then pinning it on a pin board.

Tip: Use the free iNaturalist app to identify caterpillars and see what they will grow into!



EXPLORE GOD'S WORD

Over the past few weeks, my family and I have been finding monarch caterpillars on milkweed plants and raising them into butterflies. A day or so before a monarch caterpillar creates its chrysalis, it creates a pad of silk, which acts like glue, securing them to a stick or leaf, and hangs in a "J" shape. I found a caterpillar in a J (pictured to the right), and came back an hour later to discover it had made its chrysalis!



MONARCH CATERPILLAR



MONARCH CHRYSALIS



MONARCH BUTTERFLY

A monarch caterpillar stays in its chrysalis for around 8-12 days, and the chrysalis changes in appearance every day. It begins looking relatively soft and squishy, then hardens, gets deeper in color, and develops beautiful gold studs around the rim and bottom. Scientists are unsure why the gold appears, as it seems to lack a purpose. But perhaps its purpose is to showcase God's creativity! Can you imagine God using something like a paintbrush to place droplets of gold on a monarch chrysalis? Of course, all He needed to do was speak it into place at creation, designing the monarch to create such a beautiful resting spot where it grows into a butterfly. The monarch's chrysalis is not made of real gold, but it is valuable simply because God calls it good. It can remind us of God's words speaking everything into place.

God's Word, the Bible, is worth far more than true gold. Psalm 119:27 says, "Your teachings are worth more to me than thousands of pieces of gold and silver." The next time you see a monarch, think of the gold decorations on its chrysalis, and remember God's Word is worth far more than actual gold!