



# BBC WORLD SERVICE LEARNING ENGLISH

UK Butterflies in Decline

英国蝴蝶踪迹难觅

## UK Butterflies in Decline 英国蝴蝶踪迹难觅

**Some species threatened with extinction** 一些蝴蝶种类面临绝迹

**Read the text below and do the activity that follows.**

阅读下面的短文，然后完成练习：

The British summer is extremely beautiful. Trees, flowers, birds and **butterflies** make the whole country like a big garden. However, many British people have noticed that butterflies have been gradually disappearing from this **picturesque scenery** during the past several years. What has happened to them?

**Butterfly Conservation**, a charity in the UK, is running a survey to help answer this question. The result is more serious than people expected. According to the survey, among 59 butterfly species found in the **British Isles**, more than three-quarters of them are suffering a **declining population**, including the most popular Meadow Brown. Moreover, half of all butterfly species are on the verge of **extinction**.

Some common species such as the small Tortoiseshell butterfly and the Wall butterfly are dropping **dramatically**. The latter can not even be seen in many parts of central and southern England.

The Blue butterfly, which was commonly seen in the south, has started colonising Edinburgh in the past few years.

The numbers of butterflies have dropped to a record low in the past three years largely because the summer in the UK is getting cooler and their **habitat** is also **degrading**.

Fortunately Britain is experiencing a long hot summer this year compared to the last few summers. **Conservationists** believe the warm weather will bring some benefit to the butterflies.

Sir David Attenborough, president of Butterfly Conservation, said: "Butterflies in **profusion** tell us that all is well with nature. When they decline it's a warning that other wildlife will be soon heading the same way."

The survey is still going on. The public is also encouraged to **keep track** of the UK's butterfly population. The organisers hope the survey will help raise public awareness of the value of butterflies in the UK. Butterflies give an indication of the well-being of nature and the environment.

## Glossary 词汇表

butterfly – 蝴蝶	dramatically – 显著地
picturesque scenery – 如画的风景	colonise – 居住、迁移至某地
conservation – 自然环境保护	a record low – 有记录以来最低
charity – 慈善组织	habitat – 居住地
survey – 调查	degrade – 恶化、变坏
species – 品种	conservationist – 环保主义者
British Isles – 不列颠群岛	profusion – 大量、丰富
decline – 减少	keep track of – 跟踪
extinction – 绝迹、灭绝	indication – 指示

### 1. Reading Quiz 阅读测验

Are these sentences true or false? Circle the correct answer.

以下句子哪句是真?哪句是假? 请圈出正确答案。

1. Three-quarters of the butterfly species in the UK are threatened with extinction.

True / False

2. The Blue butterfly has started to move its habitat from south to north. True / False

3. A hot summer is not good for the butterflies. True / False

4. An increase of butterflies indicates that all is well with the nature.

True / False

5. Butterflies can be an indicator of the changes in the environment.

True / False

## 2. Word Forms 词性

请用括号里单词的正确形式来完成以下句子。

例子:

The UK butterfly population is [decline] declining dramatically.

1. South England was a perfect [colonise] \_\_\_\_\_ for the Blue butterfly in the past.
2. Half of all butterfly species are on the verge of [extinct] \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Butterflies' habitat has been [degrade] \_\_\_\_\_ during the past decade.
4. He is now working as a [conservation] \_\_\_\_\_.
5. This summer people are happy to see the population of butterflies is in [profuse] \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Butterflies are sensitive to the environment. They are an [indicate] \_\_\_\_\_ of the change of environment.

### 3. Vocabulary Practice 词汇练习

#### a) Life Stages of a Butterfly 蝴蝶一生的不同阶段

请从以下的方框中选择适合的单词，填入蝴蝶一生中的四个阶段。



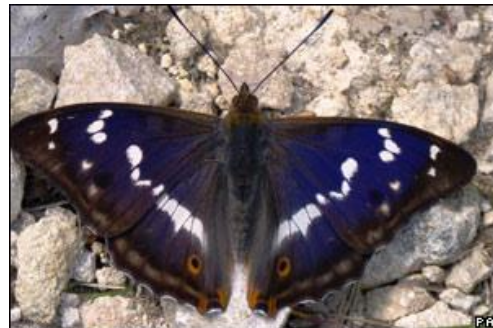
A: \_\_\_\_\_



B: \_\_\_\_\_



C: \_\_\_\_\_



D: \_\_\_\_\_

pupa	caterpillar	butterfly
eggs		

#### b) Complete Sentences 完成句子

你是不是掌握了上面的单词呢？请从以下的方框中选择适合的单词来完成下列句子。

cocoon	caterpillar	larva
chrysalis		egg

1. Female butterflies usually lay their \_\_\_\_\_ on plants.

2. During a stage of a butterfly's life cycle, the \_\_\_\_\_ eats plant leaves.
3. A pupa is also called a \_\_\_\_\_.
4. A pupa is usually covered in a \_\_\_\_\_ which is made from the silk spun by the caterpillar.
5. Another name for a caterpillar is \_\_\_\_\_.

#### 4. Wordsearch 单词搜索

请在下面的字谜游戏中找出刚才在文章中学到的英语单词。别忘了，边找边想想它们的意思。

共有8个单词，其组成方式可能以水平的（ ）垂直的（ ）或对角的（ ）形式出现。

a	l	d	e	g	r	a	d	a	t	i	o	n
b	o	f	x	u	s	i	p	e	l	s	p	s
u	n	o	t	m	o	u	d	m	r	l	r	s
t	e	r	i	r	a	r	r	d	t	e	o	d
t	i	e	n	l	u	r	r	v	o	g	f	b
e	a	s	c	y	i	l	t	u	e	i	u	e
r	l	i	t	a	d	e	l	p	e	y	s	y
f	u	g	i	q	u	i	l	a	h	m	i	i
l	n	a	o	i	e	b	c	m	e	t	o	e
y	a	i	n	d	i	c	a	t	i	o	n	l
k	u	l	l	e	l	y	i	m	m	u	n	e
x	y	c	a	t	e	r	p	i	l	l	a	r

butterfly	isle	extinction	indication
profusion	degradation	caterpillar	survey

## Answers 答案

### 1. Reading Quiz 阅读测验

1. Three-quarters of the butterfly species in the UK are threatened with extinction. **False**
2. The Blue butterfly has started to move its habitat from south to north. **True**
3. A hot summer is not good for the butterflies. **False**
4. An increase of butterflies indicates that all is well with nature. **True**
5. Butterflies can be an indicator of changes in the environment. **True**

### 2. Word Forms 词性

1. South England was a perfect [colonise] **colony** for the Blue butterflies in the past.
2. Half of all butterfly species are on the verge of [extinct] **extinction**.
3. Butterflies' habitat has been [degrade] **degrading** during the past decade..
4. He is now working as a [conservation] **conservationist**.
5. This summer people are happy to see the population of butterflies is in [profuse] **profusion**.
6. Butterflies are sensitive to the environment. They are an [indicate] **indicator** of the change of environment.

### 3. Vocabulary Practice 词汇练习

#### a) Life Stages of a Butterfly 蝴蝶一生的不同阶段

- A: eggs            B: caterpillar  
C: pupa            D: butterfly

#### b) Complete Sentences 完成句子

1. Female butterflies usually lay their **eggs** on plants.
2. During a stage of a butterfly's life cycle, the **caterpillar** eats plant leaves.
3. A pupa is also called a **chrysalis**.
4. A pupa is usually covered in a **cocoon** which is made from the silk spun by the caterpillar.
5. Another name for a caterpillar is **larva**.

### 4. Wordsearch 单词搜索

		d	e	g	r	a	d	a	t	i	o	n
b			x		s					s	p	
u			t			u				l	r	
t			i				r			e	o	
t			n					v			f	
e			c						e		u	
r			t							y	s	
f			i								i	
l			o								o	
y	i	n	d	i	c	a	t	i	o	n		
		c	a	t	e	r	p	i	l	l	a	r