

Pollinator Pals - Magnificent Moths

Everyone tends to love butterflies, but poor moths are often completely under rated, ignored and even hated by a lot of people! However did you know that moths are very, very important pollinators and there are lots of wonderfully colourful species with cool patterns here in the UK?

I thought that I would do my bit to showcase our British moths and I'm hoping that you'll all be up for finding out about the moths that live in your local area. If you fancy having a go at this activity I'm hoping that you'll discover a whole new secret world of fluttery things and become keen Moth-ers! Look at these beauties below:



Garden Tiger



Elephant hawk moth



Emperor moth



Brimstone

Have you ever heard the expression 'like a moth to a flame'? For some reason moths love artificial lights. There are many possible reasons for this, but the truth is still even a mystery to scientists!

Things you could try to attract some moths:

Leave a Light on: if you have an outdoor light you could leave it on after dark and before you go to bed (or if it's too late and you're too tired – you could look in the morning!) check around the light to see what has come to visit. Even if you don't have an outdoor light you could leave your curtains open with a light on indoors and see what visits your window!

Go on a torch-light night safari: have you ever had a nocturnal nature adventure? If you're feeling brave you could head out with an adult to explore your garden or even the countryside to see what you can spot after dark. The moths are very likely to come and find you if your torch is bright enough. A butterfly net would help!

Lightsheeting/ hang up a white bedsheet: On a dry, warm evening you could try hanging up an old white bedsheet on your washing line and point a light (torch) at it or set a light up behind it. This is a brilliant way of seeing the local moths, as they like to land on the sheet. You could then very carefully try to pop the moths in a bug pot for a closer look.

There are over 2500 species of moth in the UK and they can be quite tricky to identify. However, there are loads of useful websites to help you work out what you've spotted.



[Identify a moth | Butterfly Conservation \(butterfly-conservation.org\)](https://www.butterfly-conservation.org/)

Let us know how you get on. Hope you have fun and learn to love our moth friends!