

## “The Butterfly”

### Reading Comprehension – Short Stories

Directions: Read the story. Then answer the questions below.

The butterfly is a beautiful insect.

The butterfly has four thin wings. The wings have many different colors on them.

As time passes, the colors on its wings **fade**. This means they are not as bright.

Butterflies live all over the world. Most butterflies live where it is very warm and not too dry.



### Questions:

1) How many wings does a butterfly have?

- A. 2
- B. 4
- C. 6

2) According to the passage, what happens to a butterfly as it gets older?

- A. Its wings fall off.
- B. It becomes a caterpillar.
- C. The colors on its wings fade.

3) What does **fade** mean?

- A. to lose color
- B. to get darker
- C. to change order

4) Where do most butterflies live?

- A. in hot places
- B. in cool, dry places
- C. in warm places that are not too dry

5) What is a butterfly?

- A. a reptile
- B. an insect
- C. a mammal

6) According to the passage, butterflies are

- I. beautiful
  - II. dangerous
- A. I only
  - B. II only
  - C. I and II

## Answers and Explanation

1) **B**

In paragraph 2, we learn that a butterfly has “four thin wings.” Therefore **(B)** is correct. The passage does not contain information to support answer choices **(A)** and **(C)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

2) **C**

In paragraph 4, we learn, “As time passes, the colors on its wings fade.” This means that as the butterfly gets older, the colors on its wings fade. Therefore **(C)** is correct. The passage does not contain information to support answer choices **(A)** and **(B)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

3) **A**

In paragraph 3, the passage says, “As time passes, the colors on its wings **fade**. This means they are not as bright.” As time passes (and the butterfly gets older), the color on its wings is not as *strong* or *bright* as it was before. Using this information we can understand that the word “fade” means to lose color. If the color is not as strong or bright as before, it must lose color over time. Therefore **(A)** is correct.

The passage does not contain information to support answer choices **(B)** and **(C)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

4) **C**

In paragraph 4, the story says that most butterflies live in “very warm places that are not too dry.” From this we can understand that butterflies live in warm places that are not too dry. Therefore **(C)** is correct.

Butterflies do live where it is “very warm,” which is similar to hot, but they also live where it is “not too dry.” A hot place could be dry or wet. Therefore **(A)** is incorrect. Butterflies do not live in cool, dry places. Therefore **(B)** is incorrect.

5) **B**

Paragraph 1 says that the “butterfly is a beautiful insect.” Therefore **(B)** is correct. The passage does not contain information to support answer choices **(A)** and **(C)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

6) **A**

Paragraph 1 says that the butterfly is “a beautiful insect.” This supports **option (I)**. The author does not tell us anywhere in the passage that butterflies dangerous. This eliminates **option (II)**. Therefore **(A)** is the correct answer.