

Sugaring for Moths

We see butterflies all the time during the day, but have you ever wanted to see and learn more about moths? By making a recipe of your own creation, you can attract moths to a specific spot and study them. One thing you should know is moths are usually out at night and not during the day.

The best part of making a sugaring recipe, is that it does not have to be exact and you can make many different versions. Try using any combination of the following materials and see what works best to attract moths in your area!



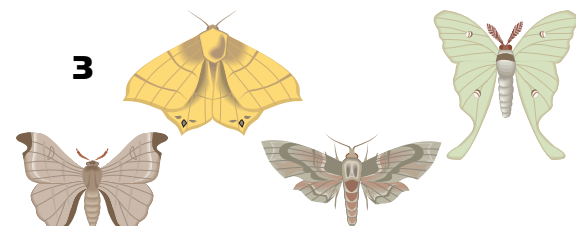
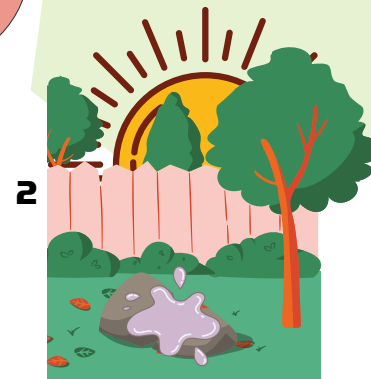
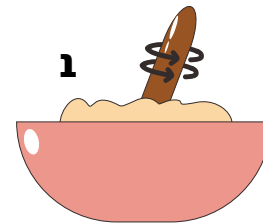
Suggested Materials:

Use any combination of the materials below. You want the consistency to be thick enough to spread without dripping.

- Water
- Molasses
- Dry Yeast
- Honey
- Cola
- Brown Sugar
- White Sugar
- Maple Syrup
- Orange Soda
- Overripe Bananas
- Rotting or Fermenting Fruits

Procedure:

1. Combine any of the previous materials to create a spreadable mixture.
2. In the late afternoon or evening, use a spoon or brush to spread the mixture onto a rock or tree. You can also hang a sponge from a tree with the mixture on it.
3. Once the sun has gone down, check the places where you put the mixture. *Do you have moths? If not, let it sit a little longer – remember, moths don't come out until nighttime. Are all of the moths the same? How do they look different? Try looking up the different types of moths you have attracted!*

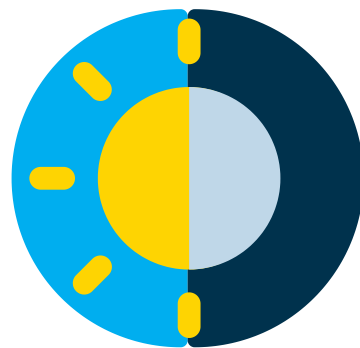


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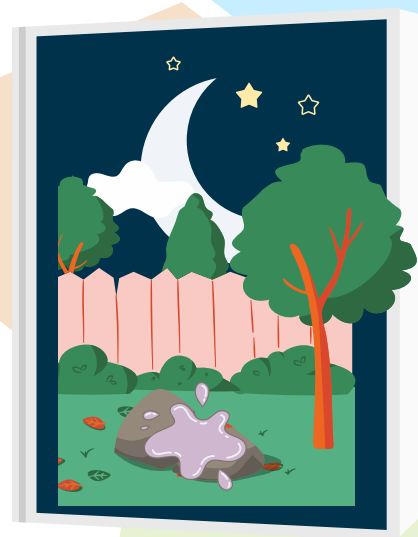
WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Moths and butterflies have many things in common – they grow from caterpillars and they have scales covering the bodies and wings – but they have differences too. Butterflies are diurnal (awake during the day) while moths are nocturnal (awake at night).

Like butterflies, moths have a proboscis – a long tongue-like mouthpiece used for drinking nectar from flowers and fruits.



Using brown sugar and bananas in your sugaring mixture attracts moths and gives them a food source, while putting your mixture out during the evening allows them to find it during their regular awake hours.



DID YOU KNOW?

A **lepidopterist** is someone who studies butterflies and moths. If you liked this activity, maybe lepidopterology is for you!