



All presenter notes will be in red

Environmental Setting: *classroom or community arts/nature center*

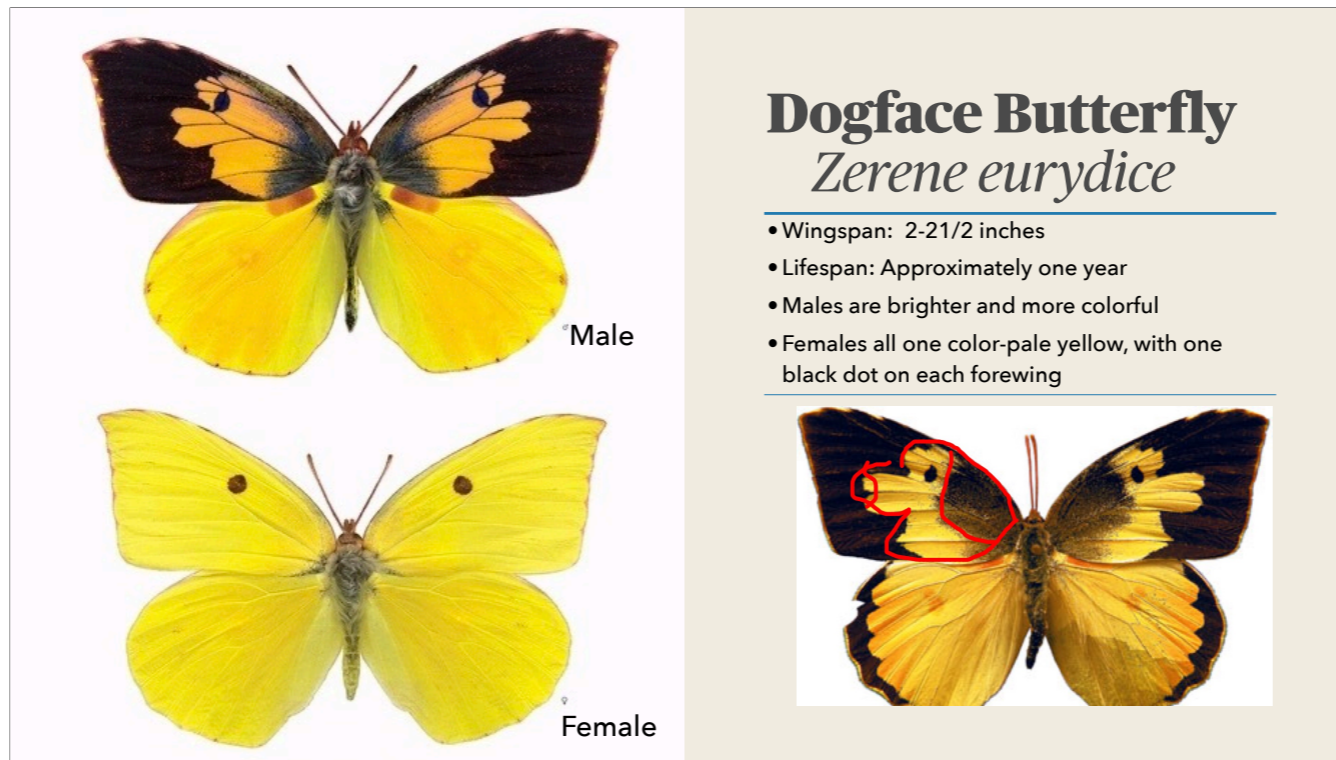
Audience: *Ages 10-100 : school presentations or community nature talks*

Props: *If you can, obtain a real preserved dogface butterfly in a casing to pass around so your audience can get a closer look*

Prep and Goal: *Give yourself roughly 20 minutes to review the main points of the presentation and give yourself time at the end to be available for questions. Not a lot of people know California has a state insect, so the goal is to educate the audience about the dogface and why exactly it was adopted as the state insect.*

Transcript:

You've heard of California's state flower; the Golden Poppy and the state tree; the Coast Redwood, but did you know California has a state insect too? Introducing the Dogface Butterfly, not only is the California Dogface Butterfly our very own state insect but it was also the very first state insect to be officially adopted in the United States!



Transcript:

Before we get into the history of California's adoption of the Dogface, let's get to know this gorgeous creature a little more. The Dogface Butterfly is endemic to California and is most commonly found in the Santa Ana and San Bernardino Mountains in Southern California. They can also be spotted in the chaparral and woodland habitats in the Sierra Nevadas.

As you can see in the picture on the left, the male Dogface has a black border on the forewing, outlining what resembles a "poodle" head, which is where the term dogface stems from. *(Point to the image with the "poodle head" circled in red and point out the ears, eyes and nose of the dog face.)* The male's colors are much brighter than the females. The females have a more muted yellow all over their wings and have a black dot on each forewing. *(If you have a taxidermied species of the butterfly this would be the best opportunity to pass it around so the audience can examine the body closer.)*



Transcript:

False Indigo (*Amorpha californica*), is the exclusive host plant to Dogface larva. *(Point to the map on the left and show where all the highlighted yellow areas are. These are the habitats and areas where False Indigo is mostly found.)* This is the only plant that will provide a home for the larva as it completes the stages of metamorphosis, making this butterfly all the more special to California. Let's find out more about a unique area in Placer County where this plant runs rampant. *(Show next slide.)*



Shutamul Bear River Preserve

- 40 acres of wilderness along the Bear River
- Large habitat for Dogface Butterfly
- Protected by acquisition since 2005



Ask the audience if anyone has been to Auburn or the surrounding area. Then ask if they knew this sacred place even existed.

Transcript:

The Shutamul Bear River Preserve near Auburn is incredibly special in that it is filled with Dogface Butterflies! Why are there so many of these butterflies in this one specific area? Well that is because the 40 acres of wilderness are home to many False Indigo plants, which we just learned are the host to Dogface larva. The unique soil and geography along the Bear River make it a hot spot for False Indigo to thrive and provide homes for hundreds and hundreds of Dogface Butterflies. The preserve is closed to the public but you can check it out by arranging a private tour with the Placer Land Trust. This area is the prime location for spotting these butterflies in the wild.



Make sure to emphasize how it can be quite hard to spot a Dogface Butterfly in the wild, despite them being found in the Shutamul Bear River Preserve. Talk about how once they emerge from their chrysalis off of a False Indigo, they fly around various environments and habitats of California looking for just a select few different wildflowers to feed from.

Transcript:

If you can't recall ever seeing an adult Dogface Butterfly in the wild with your very own eyes, you are not alone! This species flies very high and fast, reaching up to 15-20 feet in the air. If you are looking to capture a picture of these beauties, your best chance is when they are feeding on flower nectar. Adult Dogfaces prefer to feed on thistles and tall blue verberna.

1972

The Dogface Butterfly officially becomes the state insect of California

Ask the audience if anyone remembers which state was the first to adopt a state insect, this was stated in the first slide.

Transcript:

The Dogface Butterfly had a long road ahead of it before it was ever granted the status of state insect. Prior to its official designation in 1972, the Dogface was first introduced in 1929. The Lorquin Entomological Society of Los Angeles conducted a statewide survey asking entomologists to select a butterfly that would best represent the State of California. Since the dogface is so unique to California, it was the clear winner. From then on The Bureau of Entomology in the California Department of Agriculture referred to the Dogface Butterfly as the "California State Insect," and used a representation of the species on its documents.

However it was not until 40 years later that a fourth-grade class at Daily Elementary School in Fresno enlisted the help of State Assemblyman Kenneth L. Maddy to take some action in getting the naming official. Mr. Maddy introduced Assembly Bill No. 1843 proposing that the California dog-face butterfly be named the official State Insect. When his bill was read in front of a committee, a vote of 6-2 failed to get him to the legislation for a floor vote. A week later he moved the bill to approval by the full Assembly on June 19, 1972.

On July 20, the Senate voted 29-0 to approve Maddy's bill and on July 28, 1972, Governor Ronald Reagan signed AB1834 into approval. The Dogface Butterfly was now the official State Insect of California!

Soon after many other states began to adopt state insects and 23 of them are butterflies.

JUST LIVING IS NOT ENOUGH," SAID THE
BUTTERFLY, "ONE MUST HAVE SUNSHINE,
FREEDOM AND A LITTLE FLOWER."

-HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN



Transcript:

That's all folks! Thank you for being here with me today and I hope you learned some new information to carry on with you. Good luck and safe travels on your adventure to capture a moment of these beautiful insects in the wild.

End the presentation with a round of answering questions, if there are any. Encourage the audience to make it a goal to one day spot a California Dogface Butterfly in the wild and to reflect on their great meaning to the state of California.