

MOTH OF THE MONTH



There are many different kinds of moths.

Let's take a look at a very big moth. It is called the **Atlas Moth**.

The Atlas Moth lives far away in Asia. It starts out as a green and white caterpillar. The caterpillar eats a lot of leaves and grows really big - over 4 inches long!

If a hungry lizard or ant comes near, the caterpillar uses a secret weapon. It squirts a smelly liquid to keep them away.

The caterpillar builds a brown silken cocoon, fills it with bits of leaves, and settles inside to grow into a big moth. This takes about a month.

The fully grown Atlas Moth is very big. Its wingspan can be 12 inches across! That's bigger than a dinner plate!

But the Atlas Moth does not have a mouth. It lives off the food energy from all the leaves the caterpillar ate.

The Atlas Moth likes to rest on the sides of trees. It stays quiet during the day and moves around at night.

It also has a secret weapon. Atlas Moth wing tips have special markings that look like a cobra snake head! This scares dangerous animals away.

The Atlas Moth moth has a short life of 5 to 7 days. Its main job is to lay eggs that become baby caterpillars that grow into more Atlas Moths. The Atlas Moth lays many eggs to do this - 150 eggs!

You can print the next page and color our Moth of the Month, the **Atlas Moth**.

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