

**Shankaran**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Place (tie)**  
6<sup>th</sup> Grade, Pinewood School

## Fluttering into the World of Conservation

When we think of conserving our environment, we usually stick to measures like recycling, saving our water supply, and reducing the number of emissions that we release into earth. However, have you ever heard of raising butterflies? Instead of waiting for our nature to slowly diminish, we are able to take immediate action and protect our environment for future generations. Raising butterflies is a huge way to help conserve our wildlife because they are crucial pollinators, they are important for our food chain, and butterflies are a key sign of indicating climate change. So, without further ado, lets flutter away into the interesting worlds of butterflies and our environment.

Firstly, butterflies are crucial for our environment because of pollination. Believe it or not, butterflies pollinate over 75% of our flora. This shows that without butterflies, our nature would rapidly decline leading to drastic changes in earth's climate. Secondly, butterflies are important insects for the food-chain. Without butterflies, our mosquito population would double. This means that viruses like malaria and dengue would become a menace to society and would ultimately lead to the collapse of our environment in general. Lastly, butterflies are important in indicating climate change. Without these majestic insects, scientists would not be able to indicate the drastic changes in our climate resulting in the major demise of our nature.

In the end, Butterflies are crucial for the environment because they are crucial pollinators, they are important for the food chain, and they are a key sign of climate change. If we each take a step toward protecting these insects, it would greatly help our environment and Mother Earth! I hope you learned a little bit more about our environment and I encourage everybody to go raise some butterflies!