

Butterfly Effect Problem 2010

The spread of non-native alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*) may have facilitated hybridization between two closely related species of butterflies, *Lycaeides melissa* which feeds on non-native alfalfa and *Lycaeides idas*. If hybridization is a natural process in speciation, is human influence in this process unnatural?

At least one of these species lives in Natrona County. Do field work, gather data to explain what is happening and its implications. Write a position paper on impact of humans on hybridization. Present on September 8.

A Sound of Thunder, Ray
Bradbury
Nabokov Journal

Lab: Butterfly identification. How do you recognize hybrid *Lycaeides*?

Inquiry Lab: How important is feeding on a specific plant for butterfly larvae?

Language Arts

Persuasion
Expository and narrative writing
Public speaking

Science

Non-native species
Hybridization
Speciation
The nature of species
Insect-plant interactions
Genetics
Morphology
Gene flow
Classification

Social Studies

Fragmentation of landscapes
Mapping