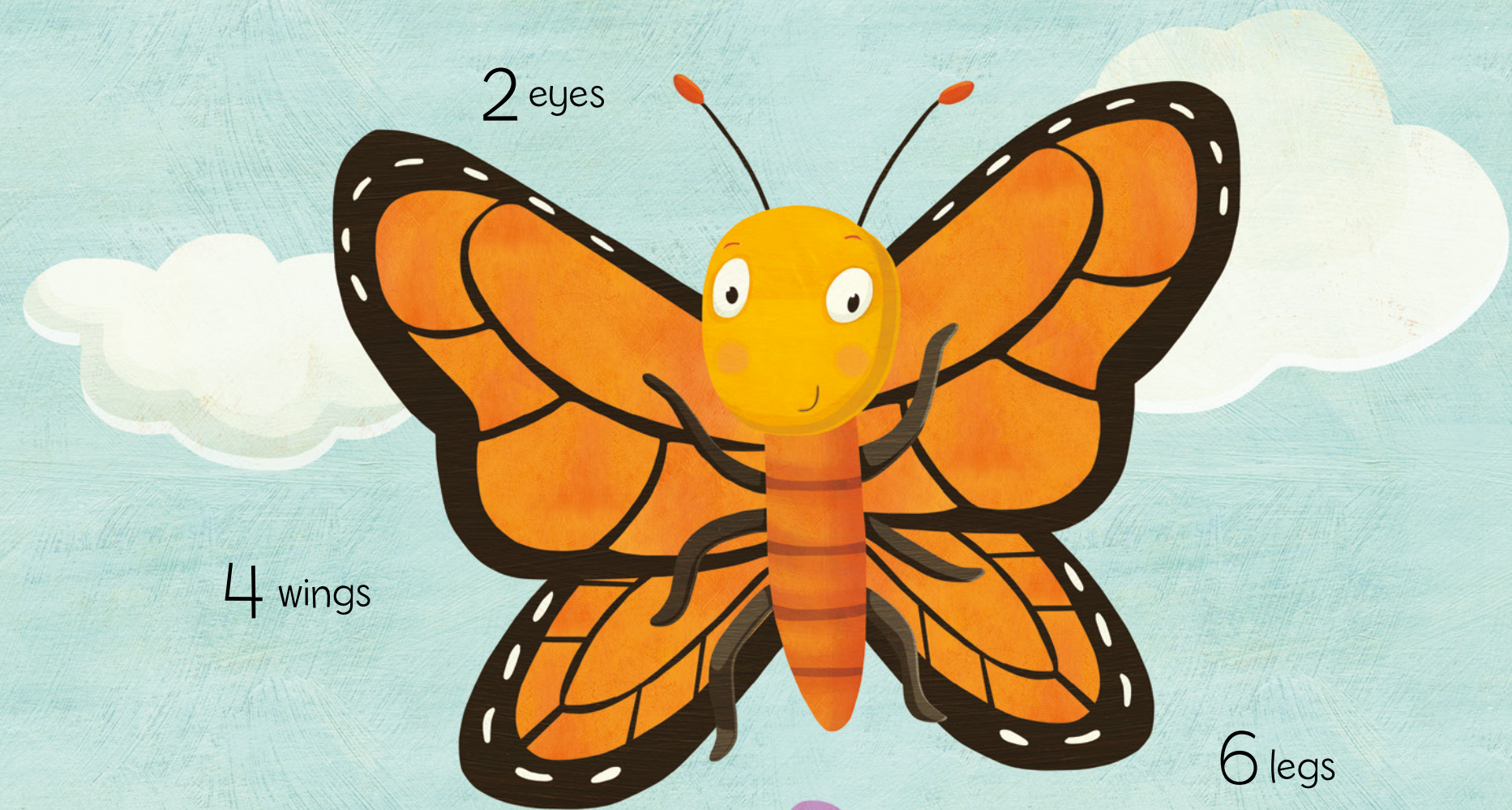


Every day, Pebbles the butterfly fluttered over his garden and counted the flowers. "One, two, three ..."
But today, he stopped short.



It's always the same small numbers, he thought.



and 42 flowers

There must be bigger numbers out there—bigger than tens and hundreds and even thousands!

But what's the BIGGEST number?

Pebbles set off to find out.

NUMBER NOTE

1 thousand has three zeros.

It looks like this:

1,000



SCIENCE SPOT

Imagine if you could see in front of you *and* behind you at the same time. Butterflies can because they have thousands of lenses in each eye! We have only one lens per eye.

A butterfly's lenses



DID YOU KNOW?

Butterflies have taste sensors on their feet. Aren't you glad your feet can't taste your socks?

Yuck!

Pebbles' first stop was a scorching desert. He spotted a camel enjoying the sunshine.

"Hello, Mr. Camel!" he said. "I'm looking for BIG numbers. What's the biggest number you know?"

"Hmm. That would be 27 MILLION. That's the temperature of the sun."



The sun's core is 27 million degrees Fahrenheit, or 15 million degrees Celsius.



SCIENCE SPOT

The sun is 93 million miles (150 million kilometers) away from Earth. It would take a plane 20 years to fly that far!

DID YOU KNOW?

Not all deserts are hot. A desert is a place where very little rain falls. In fact, the world's largest desert is Antarctica—the coldest continent on Earth!



NUMBER NOTE

1 million has six zeros.

It looks like this:

1,000,000



“Wow, that’s hot!” Pebbles said. “And so is this desert!”
Do you know where I can find some nectar?”
The camel nodded toward some wildflowers. “Try those.”

Fun Fact

The hottest recorded temperature on Earth
was 134 degrees Fahrenheit (57 degrees Celsius).
It was measured in a California desert on
July 10, 1913.

DID YOU KNOW?

A butterfly uses its tube-shaped mouth,
called a proboscis, to drink nectar. That’s
like having a built-in straw!

SCIENCE SPOT

Camels can drink around 500 cups
(120 liters) of water in one sitting.
Because they store all this water in
their blood, they can go up to seven
months without drinking again!



Refreshed from his drink, Pebbles flew on to a tropical rainforest. An electric eel wriggled by. “Hello, Ms. Eel,” Pebbles said. “What’s the biggest number you know?”
“1 BILLION! That’s how many volts of electricity are in a lightning bolt.”

The eel lit up. “I only need 600 volts to zap predators.” Suddenly, lightning **FLASHED** and thunder **BOOMED**. “Take cover, little butterfly!” warned the eel. Pebbles scrambled under a leaf to wait out the storm.

Over 8 billion humans live on Earth. Personally, I think they all look delicious.

NUMBER NOTE

1 billion has nine zeros. It looks like this:
1,000,000,000

Fun Fact

A standard American light bulb uses 120 volts of electricity. That means an electric eel could power 5 light bulbs!

SCIENCE SPOT

Most thunderstorm clouds hold more than 4 billion cups (1 billion liters) of water. Two of these clouds could provide every person on Earth with one cup of water!

When the rain stopped, Pebbles crawled out from under his leaf and fanned his wings. A tree frog leaped onto a nearby branch. "Hello, Mr. Frog!" Pebbles said. "What's the biggest number you know?"

The frog looked around and croaked, "3 TRILLION. That's how many trees are growing on Earth."

NUMBER NOTE

1 trillion has 12 zeros. It looks like this:
1,000,000,000,000

Fun Fact

A tree frog can jump 20 times the length of its body. That's like you leaping across a school gym in one hop.

DID YOU KNOW?

Trees live longer than anything else on Earth. The oldest living tree is a bristlecone pine in California. It's more than 4,800 years old!





Pebbles marveled at the rainforest. “Wow. Trillions of trees? That’s more than I can even imagine! Thank you, Mr. Frog.”

About half a trillion birds live on Earth. Of course, I’m the most handsome of them all!

Trillions of fish swim in the ocean. Thankfully, my river isn’t that crowded.

DID YOU KNOW?

While deserts get less than 10 inches (25 centimeters) of rainfall each year, tropical rainforests get up to 400 inches (1,000 centimeters). That’s enough rain to cover one giraffe standing on top of another!