A Bug's Life  Painted lady butterfly

Fun facts
- Widespread, migratory species
- Called the thistle caterpillar and also a pest for soybean farmers
- Caterpillars live in silk nests on host plant leaves
- Some years produce high numbers of painted lady butterflies
- 1 to 3 generations per summer

Identification
**Caterpillar:** Branching spines, pale yellow or cream stripes on body
**Butterfly:** Orange butterfly of medium size, black tips with white spots on forewings, hindwings have 5 blue-black spots, underside is mottled brown with 4 eyespots

Host plants
- More than 100, including thistles, mallow, various legumes

Management
- Management not recommended
- Butterflies are pollinators

**Vanessa carduii**

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