Name: _____ Date: _____

Monarch Butterflies on the Move

Circle group

Most butterflies stay near home. But monarch butterflies take a long trip. In the fall, monarchs in the United States and Canada fly south to Mexico. Some fly two thousand miles or more. That is far for a bug lighter than a paper clip.

Monarchs go south because the north gets cold. They can not live in freezing weather. In Mexico, they rest in tall trees. They sit close together to stay warm.

In spring, monarchs fly north again. They lay eggs on milkweed plants on the way. The eggs hatch into caterpillars. The caterpillars eat only milkweed. Later, new butterflies fly on. One group can not finish the trip north. It takes more than one.

Questions

1. Where do monarchs fly in the fall?

_____

_____

2. Why do monarchs go south?

_____

_____

3. Why do monarchs sit close together in the trees?

_____

_____

4. What do monarch caterpillars eat?

_____

_____

5. Why do monarchs lay eggs on milkweed?

_____

_____

6. Why is the trip so big for a monarch?

_____

_____

Words to know

monarch: an orange and black butterfly known for its long trip
freezing: so cold that water turns to ice
milkweed: a plant that monarch caterpillars eat
hatch: to break out of an egg
caterpillars: the wormlike young of butterflies

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Monarch Butterflies on the Move

Triangle group

Most butterflies stay near home all year, but monarch butterflies take a long trip. In the fall, monarchs in the United States and Canada fly south to Mexico. Some fly two thousand miles or more. That is a long way for an insect that weighs less than a paper clip.

Monarchs go south because it gets cold in the north. They cannot live through freezing weather. In Mexico, they rest in tall trees, packed close together to stay warm.

In spring, the monarchs begin to fly north again. They lay eggs on milkweed plants along the way. The eggs hatch into caterpillars, and the caterpillars eat only milkweed. Later, the new butterflies fly on. It takes more than one group of butterflies to finish the trip north.

Questions

1. Where do monarchs fly in the fall?

_____

_____

2. Why do monarchs go south?

_____

_____

3. Why do monarchs pack close together in the trees?

_____

_____

4. What do monarch caterpillars eat?

_____

_____

5. Why do you think monarchs lay their eggs on milkweed?

_____

_____

6. Why is the trip a big one for such a small insect?

_____

_____

Words to know

monarch: an orange and black butterfly known for its long trip
freezing: so cold that water turns to ice
milkweed: a plant that monarch caterpillars eat
hatch: to break out of an egg
caterpillars: the wormlike young of butterflies

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Monarch Butterflies on the Move

Square group

Most butterflies remain close to home throughout the year, but monarch butterflies undertake an extraordinary journey. Each fall, monarchs in the United States and Canada fly south to Mexico, and some of them cover two thousand miles or more. That is a remarkable distance for an insect that weighs less than a paper clip.

Monarchs travel south because the northern winters grow cold, and these delicate butterflies cannot survive freezing weather. In Mexico, they rest in tall trees, packed tightly together to keep each other warm.

When spring arrives, the monarchs begin flying north again. Along the way, they lay their eggs on milkweed plants. The eggs hatch into caterpillars, which eat nothing but milkweed, and later the new butterflies continue the journey. It takes more than one group of butterflies to complete the trip north.

Questions

1. Where do monarchs travel each fall?

_____

_____

2. Why do monarchs travel south?

_____

_____

3. Why are monarchs packed tightly together in the trees?

_____

_____

4. What do monarch caterpillars eat?

_____

_____

5. Why might monarchs lay their eggs on milkweed plants?

_____

_____

6. What makes the journey remarkable for such a small insect?

_____

_____

Words to know

monarch: an orange and black butterfly known for its long trip
freezing: so cold that water turns to ice
milkweed: a plant that monarch caterpillars eat
hatch: to break out of an egg
caterpillars: the wormlike young of butterflies

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: Monarch Butterflies on the Move

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: Monarch Butterflies on the Move

Easier · 116 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.1

1. South to Mexico.
2. The north gets cold, and they can not live in freezing weather.
3. To stay warm.
4. Only milkweed.
5. So the caterpillars have food when they hatch.
6. It is very light, but it flies two thousand miles or more.

Triangle: Monarch Butterflies on the Move

This passage · 127 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.5

1. South to Mexico.
2. It gets cold in the north, and they cannot live through freezing weather.
3. To stay warm.
4. Only milkweed.
5. So the caterpillars have food right away when they hatch.
6. The monarch is very light, yet it flies two thousand miles or more.

Square: Monarch Butterflies on the Move

Harder · 136 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 8.2

1. South to Mexico.
2. Northern winters grow cold, and they cannot survive freezing weather.
3. To keep each other warm.
4. Nothing but milkweed.
5. So the caterpillars have food as soon as they hatch.
6. The monarch weighs very little, yet it flies two thousand miles or more.