



# Monarchs on the Move

by Caleb Graham

HOUGHTON MIFFLIN

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BOSTON

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 Monarch butterflies are amazing travelers.

 It's a warm summer day. You watch the flowers wave gently in the breeze. Suddenly, a flash of orange and black flutters past. It's a monarch butterfly!

 Monarch butterflies are beautiful insects. But did you know that they are also some of the most amazing travelers in the world?

## Two-Way Travelers

What makes monarch butterflies such special travelers? They are the only butterflies that **migrate**.


Each fall, millions of monarchs fly more than a thousand miles from their homes in the north to their winter homes in the south.


When spring comes, the monarchs migrate back to their homes in the north.


This map shows where and when monarchs migrate.





 Monarch butterflies must lay their eggs on milkweed plants.

 Monarchs have to migrate. Their **survival** depends on it, because monarchs can't live where it is really cold. When the weather gets cold in one place, they fly to where it's warm.

 But why don't they live in a warm place all year? They can't. Monarchs must lay their eggs on milkweed plants. Milkweed grows only in the north, where it gets colder in the winter.

## 🔊 Parts of a Monarch's Life

A monarch doesn't start life as a butterfly. It begins life as a tiny egg on a milkweed leaf. A caterpillar hatches from the egg. The caterpillar's black, yellow, and white stripes make it easy to see. The caterpillar eats and eats the milkweed leaves and gets bigger and bigger. When it is fully grown, it finds a safe spot to change into a butterfly.



🔊 Eggs



🔊 Caterpillar

First, the caterpillar makes a special home for itself. This special home is called a chrysalis (KRIS uh lis). Inside the chrysalis, the caterpillar begins to make a **dramatic** change. In about two weeks, a beautiful butterfly hatches from the chrysalis!



Chrysalis





Butterfly



## The Journey South

The new butterfly is hungry when it comes out of the chrysalis. Unlike the caterpillar, however, the butterfly doesn't eat leaves. It drinks nectar, a sweet liquid in flowers.


 The monarch butterfly flies from flower to flower. It drinks **plenty** of nectar, and it gets fatter and fatter. The butterfly will use this fat as fuel for the long trip south.


 The monarch's long tongue helps it get nectar from flowers.





 Monarchs fly almost 2,000 miles to their winter homes!

 When the weather gets colder, the flowers start to die. Now the monarch knows it has to fly south.

 Like all animals that migrate, monarchs know exactly where they need to go. Many travel almost 2,000 miles to their winter homes, never making a wrong turn!

## Life in Winter

In their winter homes, monarchs often gather in groups. Thousands of monarchs may gather on a single tree! They may make a green tree look **solid** orange.






🔊 Not all of the monarchs stay safe until spring. Mice or birds may eat them. People also cause problems for the butterflies. New houses and roads mean fewer places for the monarchs to live.

🔊 Staying close together protects the monarchs from wind, rain, and cold.



## **The Journey Back North**

When warmer weather comes, the monarchs start their long journey back north. It's time to lay eggs to create new caterpillars. That means the monarchs need to find milkweeds.


 By summer, millions of new monarch caterpillars will hatch. Soon these caterpillars will change into butterflies and begin their own journey.








# **Glossary**

 **caterpillar** a wormlike creature that will turn into a butterfly




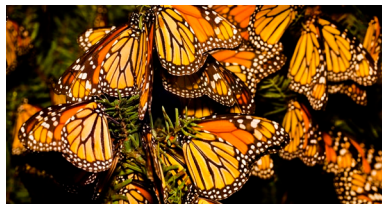
 **chrysalis** the case in which a caterpillar changes into a butterfly



 **nectar** the sweet liquid found in flowers



 **swarm** a large group

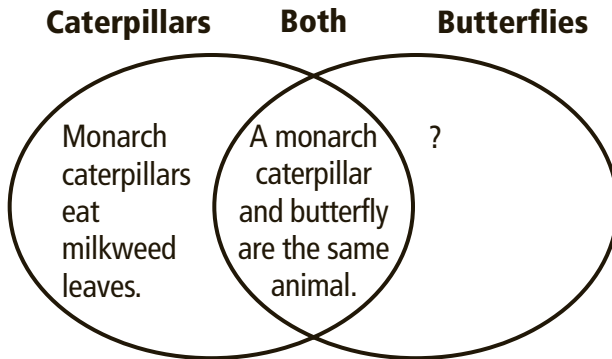


## Responding



### **TARGET SKILL Compare and Contrast**

A monarch caterpillar and a monarch butterfly are alike in one big way. They are the same animal. Copy the diagram below. Complete the diagram to tell how they are different.



### **Write About It**

**Text to World** Describe a place in the world that you would like to travel to. Include your reason for making the trip.



### TARGET VOCABULARY

accidents

chilly

dramatic

frightening

landscape

migrate

plenty

solid

survival

thunderous



### TARGET SKILL

**Compare/Contrast** Tell how details or ideas are alike and different.



### TARGET STRATEGY

**Visualize** As you read, use selection details to picture what is happening.



**GENRE Informational text** gives factual information about a topic.

**Level:** N

**DRA:** 34

**Genre:**

Informational Text

**Strategy:**

Visualize

**Skill:**

Compare and Contrast

**Word Count:** 629

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