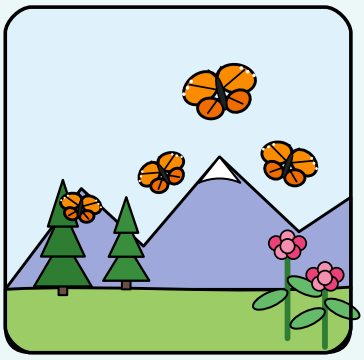
The Great Monarch Migration

Name: _____ Date: _____



Every fall, millions of orange and black monarch butterflies leave the northern United States and southern Canada and begin an amazing journey. Many of them fly up to 3,000 miles to reach the mountain forests of central Mexico. Scientists think they find their way partly by using the sun like a compass.

What makes the trip even more surprising is that none of the butterflies has ever been there before. Most monarchs live only two to six weeks. But the monarchs that hatch at the end of summer are different. This special generation can live about eight months, long enough to fly south, survive the winter and start back north in spring.

In Mexico, the monarchs cluster together on fir trees, sometimes so many that branches bend under their weight. In late winter, they wake up and head north. Along the way they lay eggs, and their children and grandchildren finish the journey.

Monarchs need one plant above all others: milkweed. It is the only plant their caterpillars eat. Sadly, milkweed has disappeared from many fields and roadsides. You can help by planting milkweed and other flowers that monarchs visit.

1 WHERE? **Where do many monarchs spend the winter?**

in Canada | in the mountain forests of Mexico | in Florida

2 **Read each sentence. Circle True or False.**

Most monarchs live about eight months.	True	False
Monarch caterpillars eat only milkweed.	True	False
The monarchs that fly south in the fall have never been to Mexico before.	True	False

3 WHAT? **What is different about the monarchs that hatch at the end of summer?**

_____

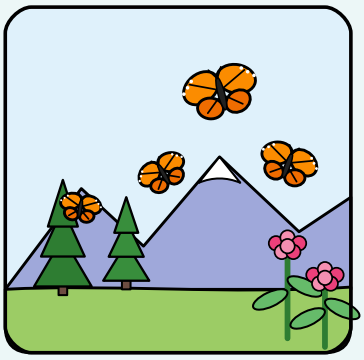
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4 HOW? **How can people help monarchs?**

_____

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Answer Key



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