



WILD CLASSROOM

Conservation in the Classroom

Millions of Monarchs: A Journey Through the Monarch Butterfly's Winter Home

April 26, 2022

1:00 pm EDT / 10:00 am PDT

Recommended grade levels: 2–6

Watch live on [Conservation in the Classroom](#)

View recording on the [Wild Classroom YouTube channel](#)

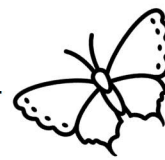


Court Whelan, PhD

Chief Sustainability Officer
Natural Habitat Adventures

Deep in the mountains of central Mexico, a strange and wondrous phenomenon occurs each year: millions of monarch butterflies gather in “groves” to spend their winter. Join Court Whelan, scientist, ecotourism guide, photographer, and author on an exploration through the monarch butterfly’s overwintering colonies. Hear from Court firsthand about the journeys he leads and some of his personal discoveries and highlights as an expedition leader and how you can do your part to care for these remarkable insects in your area.

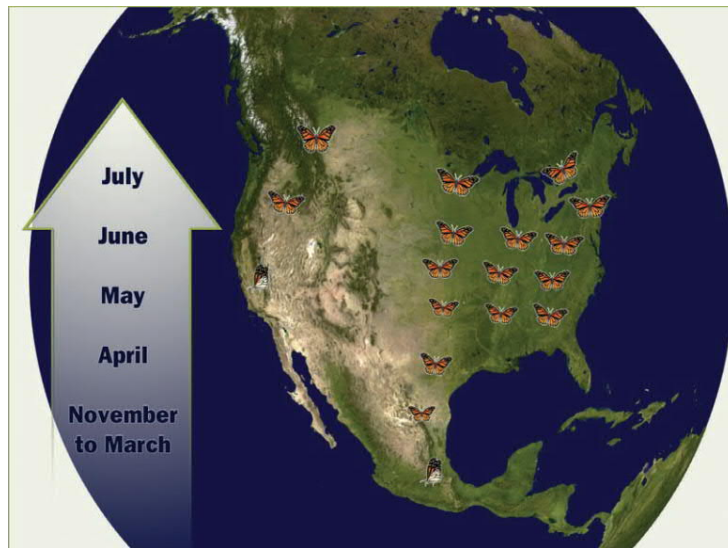
BELL RINGERS



Help prepare your learners by introducing the topic with these warm-up questions.

Interpret

Monarch butterflies have one of the most remarkable migration patterns in the animal kingdom. Take a look at the maps of their migrations below and then answer the questions.



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What direction do monarchs travel in the fall? _____

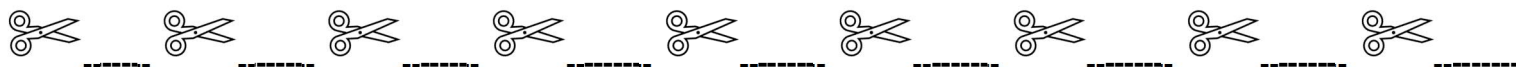
Find where you live on the map. During what month(s) should you look for monarchs?

Hypothesize

Each winter, millions of monarchs head to the same forest in Mexico to spend the winter, but none of them have ever been there before. How do you think these butterflies know where to go?

Reflect

Butterflies are **pollinators**. In North America, about three-quarters of flowering plants and many of the fruits and vegetables we eat depend on pollinators. If pollinators disappeared, what fruit or vegetable would you be sad to lose?



Planning to watch the event live? Write your question(s) for the presenter here:

INFORMATIONAL RESOURCES

Use these web articles and videos to provide background information to your learners on monarch butterflies.



- Video: [All About Monarch Butterflies](#)
- Web story: [Protecting Monarch Butterflies and Their Forests](#)
- Web story: [The Great Monarch Migration](#)
- Web story: [Monarch Heroes](#)
- Web page: [Monarch Butterfly](#)
- Web page: [One Square Foot](#)
- Publication: [Monarch Butterfly: WWF Wildlife and Climate Change Series](#)

HOW TO HELP

- Web page: [What Should I Plant? Native Wildflowers by Region](#)
- Web page: [Small Steps to Reduce Food Waste](#)



ACTIVITIES

Check out these lesson plans to supplement the content from the event.



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[Monarch Butterfly Toolkit](#)

Through the activities in the monarch butterfly toolkit such as Flutters and Flowers and The Great Monarch Migration, students will learn about this incredible species, their habitat, and the impacts of our everyday food choices.

Grades 3–5

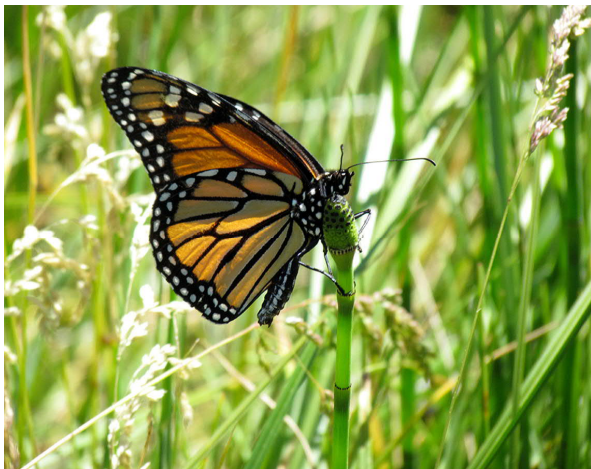
[Monarch Butterfly Rest Stop Craft](#)

Create a butterfly feeder to help provide for monarch butterflies along their long migratory journey.

All ages



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© Karen Daves

[Grasslands of the Northern Great Plains Toolkit](#)

Use lessons from the Grasslands of the Northern Great Plains toolkit to teach about the importance of pollinators and how we can help provide for them. Choose from any of our structured lesson plans or use the fun puzzle pages from our Grasslands and Pollinators activity book.

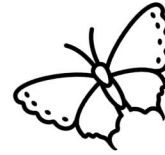
Grades 3–8

ASSESSMENTS

Conclude your lesson on monarchs with these resources and fun assessment tools.

Kahoot!

- [All About Monarch Butterflies](#)
- [The Buzz on Pollinators](#)



Millions of Monarchs: A Journey Through the Monarch Butterfly's Winter Home **Worksheet**

Use the worksheet on the following page as an assignment or a quiz following the viewing of the Conservation in the Classroom event.

Answer Key (questions on the next page):

- 1) a and b
- 2) cues from the environment indicating the seasons are changing
- 3) false
- 4) d
- 5) a
- 6) milkweed
- 7) b, c, and d





Millions of Monarchs: A Journey Through the Monarch Butterfly's Winter Home

Answer the following questions after learning about monarch butterflies.

1. Why do monarchs travel south to Mexico? (2 answers)
 - a. to hibernate and save energy
 - b. to escape cold temperatures
 - c. to lay eggs
 - d. to eat

2. How do monarchs know when it's time to migrate?

3. True or False: The butterfly that completes the migration journey is the same monarch that began it.

4. How many generations of monarchs typically complete one full migration cycle?
 - a. 1
 - b. 2
 - c. 3
 - d. 4

5. Why are pollinators like monarchs so important?
 - a. they help plants to fertilize and grow food
 - b. they eat animals that damage plants
 - c. they are a source of food for top predators
 - d. they recycle nutrients in the soil

6. What is the name of the plant that monarchs lay their eggs on to provide food for the caterpillars once they emerge?

7. What human activities are threatening monarchs and their habitats? Circle all that apply.
 - a. overfishing
 - b. agriculture
 - c. deforestation
 - d. releasing carbon into the atmosphere, causing climate change

8. Name two ways you will help protect and support monarch butterflies:

- _____
- _____



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