

Monarch Meaning Map

See how word groups add meaning to a model informational text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.7.1a "Explain the function of phrases and clauses in general and their function in specific sentences."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each prepositional or participial phrase that adds information, and circle each dependent clause. In the margin, write what each marked group does, such as telling when, where, why, how, or under what condition.

The Monarchs' Long Route

- ① Each autumn, eastern monarch butterflies begin a remarkable trip from Canada and the United States to mountain forests in central Mexico. Guided by the sun and Earth's magnetic field, they travel thousands of miles. The butterflies do not complete the northward return trip in one lifetime, because several generations continue the migration. At reserves in the mountains, visitors can hear the soft flutter of millions of wings. When winter ends in spring, the butterflies begin moving north again to breed.
- ② Monarchs need cool, moist conditions while they rest in Mexico's oyamel fir forests. These high mountains provide shelter from storms and extreme temperatures. If the forest becomes too warm or dry, the insects may use stored energy too quickly. Conservation groups work with local communities to protect the forest, because healthy trees create the special climate the butterflies need. By planting native trees and preventing illegal logging, people help preserve the winter habitat for migrating insects in Mexico each year.
- ③ Scientists and residents count monarchs during the winter, when the insects gather in dense clusters on tree branches. Their reports help researchers estimate changes in the population. A smaller count can signal trouble in the breeding grounds, where monarch caterpillars depend on milkweed plants. To support the species, gardeners can grow native milkweed and avoid pesticides. Because migration crosses several countries, protecting monarchs requires cooperation among many people along the route throughout the year. This work is shared.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

- 1 In paragraph 1, what does the phrase “Guided by the sun and Earth’s magnetic field” modify? What information does it add?

- 2 In paragraph 1, what is the function of the clause beginning with “because several generations”?

- 3 In paragraph 2, what condition is described by the clause beginning with “If the forest becomes”?

- 4 In paragraph 3, what does the clause beginning with “where monarch caterpillars” describe?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write two sentences about protecting a local natural area. Use brackets around one phrase and braces around one dependent clause, then add a parenthetical label after each mark to explain its function.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each prepositional or participial phrase that adds information, and circle each dependent clause. In the margin, write what each marked group does, such as telling when, where, why, how, or under what condition. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In paragraph 1, what does the phrase “Guided by the sun and Earth’s magnetic field” modify? What information does it add?	It modifies the monarch butterflies, or “they,” and tells how they travel.
2	In paragraph 1, what is the function of the clause beginning with “because several generations”?	It gives the reason the butterflies cannot complete the northward return trip in one lifetime.
3	In paragraph 2, what condition is described by the clause beginning with “If the forest becomes”?	It tells the condition under which monarchs may use stored energy too quickly, when the forest is too warm or dry.
4	In paragraph 3, what does the clause beginning with “where monarch caterpillars” describe?	It describes the breeding grounds and tells where caterpillars depend on milkweed plants.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

[Near the creek] (tells where), volunteers collect litter. {Because trash can harm wildlife} (tells why), they sort recyclables.

Accept accurate markings of prepositional and participial phrases that add details, along with dependent clauses that express time, reason, condition, or location. Students’ explanations may use different wording if they correctly identify what the group modifies or the information it adds.