Monarch Journey Links

Notice how ideas connect in an informational text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.8 "Describe the logical connection between particular sentences and paragraphs in a text (e.g., comparison, cause/effect, first/second/third in a sequence)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline words or phrases that show why something happens or what happens because of it. Number the events that show the order of the monarchs' journey.

The Monarchs' Long Journey

1. Each fall, monarch butterflies begin a long trip from parts of the United States and Canada to mountain forests in central Mexico. Shorter days and cooler temperatures signal that winter is coming. Because monarchs cannot survive freezing weather for long, they travel south. First, they use the sun and Earth's magnetic field to help guide their flight. Then, they stop often to drink nectar from flowers.

2. The travelers need fuel for this journey. Nectar gives them energy, so gardens and wildflower fields are important stopping places. A monarch may fly many miles in one day when the weather is warm and the wind is helpful. However, a strong storm can slow the butterfly or force it to rest. Unlike birds, monarchs do not raise their young during this trip. They focus on reaching Mexico.

3. In Mexico, millions of monarchs cluster on oyamel fir trees. The trees help protect them from rain and cold. In spring, the butterflies begin moving north. First, they leave Mexico and lay eggs on milkweed plants in the southern United States. The caterpillars that hatch grow into new butterflies. Later generations continue north, so no single monarch usually completes the whole round trip.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. In paragraph 1, what causes monarchs to travel south, and what happens because of that cause?

2. In paragraph 1, how does the sentence beginning with "Then" connect to the sentence beginning with "First"?

3. What connection does the word "However" show between helpful weather and a strong storm in paragraph 2?

4. How does the final sentence of paragraph 3 connect to the sentence before it?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write two sentences that could be added after paragraph 2. Use a fact from the passage to show a cause in the first sentence and an effect in the second sentence.

ANSWER KEY

Monarch Journey Links

GRADE 3 · RI.3.8

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline words or phrases that show why something happens or what happens because of it. Number the events that show the order of the monarchs' journey. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In paragraph 1, what causes monarchs to travel south, and what happens because of that cause?	**Shorter days and cooler temperatures signal winter, so monarchs travel south because they cannot survive freezing weather for long.**
2	In paragraph 1, how does the sentence beginning with "Then" connect to the sentence beginning with "First"?	**It gives the next event in the sequence. After using the sun and Earth's magnetic field to guide flight, monarchs stop to drink nectar.**
3	What connection does the word "However" show between helpful weather and a strong storm in paragraph 2?	**It shows a contrast. Warm weather and helpful wind can help a monarch fly, but a strong storm can slow it or make it rest.**
4	How does the final sentence of paragraph 3 connect to the sentence before it?	**It shows cause and effect. Later generations continue north, so one monarch usually does not complete the whole round trip.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Because monarchs need energy for their journey, they stop at gardens and wildflower fields for nectar. As a result, they can keep traveling toward Mexico.

Accept equivalent descriptions of sequence, cause and effect, or contrast that match the passage. For Part 3, accept two fact-based sentences with a clear cause in the first sentence and a matching effect in the second.