Across Three Borders

How countries govern and work together along a migration route

5.SS.5.1 "Explain how the world is divided into many different countries and each has its own government and how they interact with each other."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Number the three countries named in the passage, underline one action each government can take, and circle one way the governments can work together.

A Butterfly's Long Journey

1 Each fall, millions of monarch butterflies travel south across North America. Many spend winter in forests in Mexico. In spring, later generations move north through the United States and into Canada. These are three different countries, each with its own borders and government. Butterflies cross borders without stopping, but each government makes habitat rules for the land inside its own borders.

2 Mexico's government can protect forests where monarchs spend winter. The United States government can help protect places where monarchs lay eggs on milkweed. Canada's government can protect habitat where monarchs spend the summer. Each government makes decisions for its own country. None of them can make all the rules for the entire route, so one country's actions alone cannot protect every stop.

3 The governments can also work together. They can share information about monarch numbers and plan ways to protect habitat along the route. They may choose different rules because each government answers to people in its own country. If one country loses important habitat, butterflies may have fewer safe places during the journey, even when another country protects its part of the route.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why can no single government make habitat rules for the monarchs' entire route?

2. How could Mexico's and Canada's governments each help monarchs at different stops?

3. How can the three governments work together even if they choose different rules?

4. If important habitat disappears in one country, why might protection in another country not be enough?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine two neighboring countries, Pine and Stone, share a river. In three or four sentences, describe one decision each country's government could make about the river, one way they could work together, and why both countries' choices matter.

ANSWER KEY

Across Three Borders

GRADE 5 · 5.SS.5.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Number the three countries named in the passage, underline one action each government can take, and circle one way the governments can work together. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why can no single government make habitat rules for the monarchs' entire route?	**The route crosses three countries, and each government makes habitat rules for land inside its own borders.**
2	How could Mexico's and Canada's governments each help monarchs at different stops?	**Mexico's government could protect winter forests, while Canada's government could protect summer habitat.**
3	How can the three governments work together even if they choose different rules?	**They can share information about monarch numbers and plan ways to protect habitat along the route.**
4	If important habitat disappears in one country, why might protection in another country not be enough?	**Monarchs need safe places at different stops along their journey, so protection in one country cannot replace every lost stop.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Pine's government could limit trash dumped into the river on its side of the border. Stone's government could test the river water and warn its residents when it is unsafe. The two governments could share test results and agree on cleanup plans. Both countries' choices matter because polluted water can flow across their border.

Accept other river-related government decisions and ways to cooperate if the response gives each country its own decision and explains why the shared river connects their choices.