

Follow the Evidence

Research a monarch question using two credible sources.

5.T.RA.1 “Research & Inquiry: Conduct research to ask and answer questions that clarify, deepen, and extend understanding of a topic of interest using credible sources and communicating relevant and accurate information.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Read the research plan and both source summaries. Underline facts that could answer your question. Circle the publisher or authors so each fact can be traced to its source.

A Monarch Research Packet

- ① Research plan: Choose a question about monarchs that these readings can help answer. You might investigate why milkweed matters or how a migration continues across generations. Check who published each source. Record relevant facts in your own words, labeling them A or B. Compare the facts, then use both sources to explain your answer. Finish with a new question for later research.
- ② Source A: National Park Service, “Continental Nomads: Monarch Butterflies” (2019; adapted). This U.S. government agency publishes information about wildlife and parks. Eastern monarchs spend winter in fir forests in Mexico. In spring, they travel north, mating and laying eggs on milkweed along the way. Their offspring continue the journey. The last generation of the breeding season returns to Mexico. The entire yearly cycle therefore involves several generations.
- ③ Source B: Tara Luna and R. Kasten Dumroese, “Monarchs and Milkweeds” (2013; adapted from a scientific journal article listed by the U.S. Forest Service). This research article was reviewed by other specialists. Monarch caterpillars depend on milkweed leaves for food. Adult monarchs visit flowers for nectar. Milkweed habitat along migration routes is important. Planting suitable milkweed species within their native ranges can help restore habitat.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 Write a focused monarch research question that the packet can help answer.

2 Give one reason Source A is worth considering and one reason Source B is worth considering. Does an expert publisher alone guarantee that every claim is correct?

3 Record one relevant fact from A and one from B in your own words. Label each source.

4 Explain how your two facts work together to answer your question.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Use your notes to write 4-5 sentences answering your research question. Include relevant facts from both sources and identify A or B when you use a fact. End with one new question the packet does not answer.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Read the research plan and both source summaries. Underline facts that could answer your question. Circle the publisher or authors so each fact can be traced to its source. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Write a focused monarch research question that the packet can help answer.	Example: Why is milkweed important during the monarch life cycle? Other answerable, focused questions are acceptable.
2	Give one reason Source A is worth considering and one reason Source B is worth considering. Does an expert publisher alone guarantee that every claim is correct?	A is published by a government agency that shares wildlife information. B is a scientific article reviewed by specialists. No; still check whether facts are relevant and supported, and compare sources.
3	Record one relevant fact from A and one from B in your own words. Label each source.	For a milkweed question: A says monarchs lay eggs on milkweed during the northward journey. B says caterpillars depend on milkweed leaves for food.
4	Explain how your two facts work together to answer your question.	For the milkweed question: monarchs use milkweed for laying eggs, and their caterpillars need its leaves for food. The sources describe connected stages of the life cycle.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Milkweed matters at two stages of the monarch life cycle. Source A explains that monarchs lay eggs on milkweed as they travel north. Source B explains that monarch caterpillars depend on milkweed leaves for food. Together, these facts show why milkweed habitat helps monarchs continue their life cycle. A question for later research is: Which milkweed species are native to our county?

Accept other focused questions and relevant, accurate evidence. Assess question, source judgment, paraphrased notes, synthesis and extension. No outside research is required for this packet. Source A: nps.gov/subjects/pollinators/migratingmonarchs.htm. Source B: Luna & Dumroese (2013), Native Plants Journal 14(1), 4-15; doi:10.3368/npj.14.1.5. Readings are shortened paraphrases, not quotations.