

Monarch Research Notes

Research your own topic and connect two credible sources.

3.T.RA.1.c "Summarize researched, relevant, and accurate information from at least two credible sources about a self-selected topic. (C)"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Read these source notes. Underline one important idea from Source A and one from Source B. Circle a supporting detail in each. Tell a partner how both sources help answer the question: What helps monarchs complete their yearly cycle?

Monarchs: Notes from Two Sources

Source A: Monarch Joint Venture, Migration

These notes summarize a monarch conservation organization's explanation. Eastern monarchs fly south from the United States and southern Canada to central Mexico in fall. The adults that survive winter begin flying north in spring. Their offspring continue the journey north. Later generations live during summer, and a new generation migrates south in fall.

Source B: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Monarch

These notes summarize information from a government wildlife agency. Monarch caterpillars need milkweed to eat. Adult monarchs need nectar from flowers during breeding, migration and winter. Most eastern monarchs spend winter in mountain forests of central Mexico. The winter habitat provides shelter and moderate temperatures that help protect them from freezing.

Connect and Check

Source A helps explain the yearly travel cycle. Source B explains food and shelter needs during that cycle. Together, the notes show that monarchs need suitable places and plants along the way. A good summary selects accurate big ideas from both sources. It does not claim that one butterfly completes the entire yearly cycle.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 Which monarchs begin the northward trip in spring?

2 How do food needs differ for caterpillars and adults?

3 Give one important idea from each source about the yearly cycle.

4 Write one sentence that connects an idea from each source.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a topic you want to learn about. With your teacher's help, read at least two credible sources about it, such as books or articles from a museum, government agency or university. Take relevant notes, then write a two-sentence summary in your own words that names both sources and connects their most important accurate information.

1. Choose your topic

Write your topic and a question you want to answer. Ask your teacher for two suitable sources.

2. Source A notes

Read Source A. Record its name, title, page or web address, and one relevant fact.

3. Source B notes

Read a second source. Record its name, title, page or web address, and one relevant fact.

4. Summarize and check

Write two sentences naming both sources and combining their useful big ideas. Check each claim against the sources. Leave out unrelated details.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Read these source notes. Underline one important idea from Source A and one from Source B. Circle a supporting detail in each. Tell a partner how both sources help answer the question: What helps monarchs complete their yearly cycle? Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which monarchs begin the northward trip in spring?	The adults that survived winter begin flying north; their offspring continue the journey.
2	How do food needs differ for caterpillars and adults?	Caterpillars eat milkweed; adult monarchs drink nectar from flowers.
3	Give one important idea from each source about the yearly cycle.	A: the cycle includes northward and southward travel across generations. B: monarchs need suitable food and winter shelter.
4	Write one sentence that connects an idea from each source.	For example: As generations of monarchs travel through the yearly cycle, they need food plants and suitable winter shelter.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)**Example research notes: sea otters**

Question: How do sea otters stay warm and get food? Source A: NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, Sea Otter, Earth Is Blue volume 4: thick fur keeps them warm. Source B: Monterey Bay Aquarium, Sea otter: they eat animals such as clams and crabs.

Two-sentence summary

NOAA explains that thick fur keeps sea otters warm, and Monterey Bay Aquarium identifies clams and crabs as foods they eat. Sea otters rely on their fur for warmth and ocean animals for food.

TEACHER ASSESSMENT NOTES

Provide access to two age-appropriate credible sources on each child's own topic before the research task. The printed monarch notes model source use; copying their combined paragraph does not complete independent research. Check the selected facts and final two sentences against the actual sources, including a clear source name for each. The example demonstrates a different topic, with research notes and a summary. Source A for monarchs: monarchjointventure.org/monarch-biology/monarch-migration. Source B: fws.gov/species/monarch-danaus-plexippus. Sea-otter model sources: sanctuaries.noaa.gov/magazine/4/sea-otter/ and montereybayaquarium.org/animals-the-ocean/animals-a-to-z/sea-otter. These are paraphrases, not quotations. Nineteen writing lines provide separate topic, source-note and summary spaces; no minimum word count is imposed.