

Monarch Research Trail

Gather, organize, and connect evidence from two sources.

ELA.5.C.4.1 "Conduct research to answer a question, organizing information about the topic and using multiple reliable and valid sources."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB In Source A, underline the sentence about adult food and circle the sentence about caterpillar food. In Source B, underline the sentence about fall-migrating adults and circle the final planting recommendation.

Food for Monarchs - A Research Packet

- ① **Source A - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Monarch species profile.** Adult monarchs drink nectar from many kinds of flowers during breeding and migration. Monarch caterpillars eat milkweed, and adult females lay their eggs on milkweed plants. The eastern migratory population travels to Mexico in fall; some other monarch populations follow different routes or do not migrate. This federal wildlife agency publishes a species profile with research references. Educational summary of the Food, Habitat, and Overview sections: fws.gov/species/monarch-danaus-plexippus.
- ② **Source B - Monarch Joint Venture, a conservation nonprofit.** Its article asks whether adult feeding habitat is more important than milkweed during fall migration. Fall-migrating adults concentrate on drinking nectar to fuel their journey instead of breeding. Milkweed remains important for caterpillars developing during the growing season. The organization recommends a mix of milkweed native to the region and nectar plants that bloom across the season. Educational summary: *Is foraging habitat for the adults more important than milkweed during the fall migration?*; monarchjointventure.org/faq/milkweed/is-milkweed-more-important-than-nectar.

- ③ **Your research question:** How should a garden provide food for adult monarchs during fall migration, and how is that different from feeding caterpillars? Read both supplied sources, take brief notes in your own words, and keep each source label with its facts. Sort the notes under headings that fit the question. A true fact can be irrelevant: a migration destination alone does not explain what food a garden should provide. Use the agreement and the different details in A and B to answer the question; do not assume that milkweed leaves feed adult butterflies.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

- ① What two different needs must your research answer explain?

- ② Why are A and B appropriate sources for this question? Use their expertise and the information they supply.

- ③ Which food fact do both sources support, and what seasonal emphasis does B add?

- ④ Would the destination Mexico alone answer this research question? Explain your choice.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Conduct the research using A and B. Record facts with source labels, organize them under useful headings, then write a three- or four-sentence answer to the research question using both sources.

Gather evidence

Write at least two short notes from A and two from B in your own words. Label every note A or B. Include adult food, caterpillar food, and a seasonal planting detail.

Organize your findings

Choose two or three headings, such as Adult food, Caterpillar food, and Plant choices. Put each note under a heading by rewriting it briefly or referring to its source and key words. Identify one fact you will leave out as less relevant.

Answer with evidence

Use both source names or labels and explain the difference between the life stages. Connect the planting recommendation to fall feeding. Reread to check that each claim is supported.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

In Source A, underline the sentence about adult food and circle the sentence about caterpillar food. In Source B, underline the sentence about fall-migrating adults and circle the final planting recommendation. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What two different needs must your research answer explain?	It must explain food for fall-migrating adults and food for caterpillars, distinguishing nectar from milkweed leaves.
2	Why are A and B appropriate sources for this question? Use their expertise and the information they supply.	A is a wildlife-agency species profile with references; B is a monarch-conservation organization explaining seasonal habitat needs. Both give relevant food information for the life stages in the question.
3	Which food fact do both sources support, and what seasonal emphasis does B add?	Both distinguish adult nectar feeding from caterpillar use of milkweed. B emphasizes nectar as fuel for fall-migrating adults and recommends nectar plants blooming across the season.
4	Would the destination Mexico alone answer this research question? Explain your choice.	No. It tells where the eastern population travels, but not what food a garden should provide. It may be background, not the main food evidence.

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Sample notes: A - adults drink nectar during migration; A - caterpillars need milkweed. B - fall adults use nectar to fuel travel; B - include region-native milkweed and nectar plants blooming across the season.

Organization: Adult food - the nectar facts from A and B. Caterpillar food - milkweed facts. Plant choices - B's seasonal mix. Leave out Mexico as a main food fact because it gives a destination, not a feeding need.

Both A and B show that adult monarchs need nectar, while caterpillars need milkweed. A garden for fall-migrating adults should therefore offer nectar flowers. B adds that a mix of region-native milkweed and nectar plants blooming across the season supports different needs. Milkweed leaves alone would not supply the adult food described in these sources.

Assess completed source notes, organization, relevance decisions, and a supported answer, not a plan for future research. Accept equivalent useful headings, accurate paraphrases, and either three or four synthesis sentences. The source packet is sufficient; no outside search is required. The scientific claims concern life stages and seasons. Do not infer that all monarch populations migrate to Mexico. Sources agree but B adds a seasonal planting recommendation.