# Monarch Travel Clues

Use details from the text to answer questions about monarch butterflies.

**CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.1** "Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers."

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline at least four details that could help answer a question about monarchs. Next to each detail, write a short label, such as why, how, or help, so you can point to the text when you answer.

### The Monarch Journey

1. Each fall, many monarch butterflies leave parts of the United States and Canada. They fly south to mountain forests in central Mexico, where the weather is warmer. A monarch cannot survive freezing weather for long. The butterflies use the sun and Earth's magnetic field to help guide their journey. Some travel thousands of miles, even though each butterfly weighs less than a paper clip.

2. The monarch journey continues across several generations. Adults that fly south in fall spend the winter in Mexico. These overwintered adults begin flying north in spring and lay eggs on milkweed along the way. The caterpillars eat milkweed leaves before changing into butterflies. Later generations continue north; descendants of the overwintered adults do not begin the spring return trip.

3. Scientists and community groups watch monarch numbers each year. They count butterflies at wintering sites in Mexico and look for milkweed in other places. People can help monarchs by planting native milkweed and nectar flowers. Nectar gives adult butterflies energy. Milkweed is important because monarch caterpillars eat it, and female monarchs use it as a place to lay eggs.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why do monarch butterflies fly to central Mexico in the fall? Use a detail from the text in your answer.

2. What two things help guide monarchs on their journey? Use the text.

3. How is the spring trip different from the fall trip? Use details from the text.

4. What are two reasons milkweed is important to monarchs? Use details from the text.

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write one question about the last paragraph that is different from the questions above. Then answer your question in a complete sentence using two details from the text.

**ANSWER KEY**

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**GRADE 3 · RI.3.1**

## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline at least four details that could help answer a question about monarchs. Next to each detail, write a short label, such as why, how, or help, so you can point to the text when you answer. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Why do monarch butterflies fly to central Mexico in the fall? Use a detail from the text in your answer. | **They fly to central Mexico because the weather is warmer, and monarchs cannot survive freezing weather for long.** |
| 2 | What two things help guide monarchs on their journey? Use the text. | **The sun and Earth's magnetic field help guide them.** |
| 3 | How is the spring trip different from the fall trip? Use details from the text. | **Adults fly south to Mexico in fall. Those overwintered adults begin flying north and laying eggs in spring; later generations continue north.** |
| 4 | What are two reasons milkweed is important to monarchs? Use details from the text. | **Monarch caterpillars eat milkweed leaves, and female monarchs lay eggs on milkweed plants.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Question: How do scientists and community groups learn about monarchs? Answer: They count butterflies at wintering sites in Mexico and look for milkweed in other places.

Accept answers that accurately restate or quote the needed passage details. For Part 3, accept a checkable question and a complete answer that uses two accurate details from the last paragraph.