Butterfly Time Trail

Notice how details are arranged to guide an explanation.

4.10.B "explain how the use of text structure contributes to the author's purpose;"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle the words that tell when events happen, and number the major stages 1, 2, and 3. Use your marks to notice how the author arranges the explanation.

A Monarch's Changes

1. Each spring, a female monarch butterfly lays tiny eggs on milkweed leaves. After about four days, a striped caterpillar hatches. It eats milkweed almost constantly and grows quickly. As it grows, it sheds its skin several times. This hungry stage gives the future butterfly the energy it needs for its next big change in its life.

2. Next, the full-grown caterpillar attaches itself to a twig or leaf and forms a chrysalis. Inside this hard case, its body changes. About ten to fourteen days later, an adult monarch pushes out. At first, the butterfly's wings are soft and folded. Soon, fluid from its body helps the wings expand and firm up for flight through air.

3. Finally, the adult butterfly drinks nectar and may carry pollen from flower to flower. In late summer and fall, many monarchs east of the Rocky Mountains fly south to central Mexico for winter there. The butterflies that survive mate in spring, and females lay eggs. Then the life cycle begins again with a new generation.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How is the passage mainly organized? Use two details from the passage to support your answer.

2. What is the author's purpose? How does the way the passage is organized help meet that purpose?

3. Why does paragraph 2 use the words "Next" and "About ten to fourteen days later"?

4. How does the final sentence contribute to the author's explanation?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write three sentences that explain the life cycle of a different animal. Use at least two time-order words, name the structure you used, and explain how it helps readers understand your purpose.

ANSWER KEY

Butterfly Time Trail

GRADE 4 · TEKS 4.10.B

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle the words that tell when events happen, and number the major stages 1, 2, and 3. Use your marks to notice how the author arranges the explanation. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How is the passage mainly organized? Use two details from the passage to support your answer.	**It is organized in time order, or sequence. It begins with eggs and caterpillars, moves to the chrysalis and adult butterfly, and ends with adults laying eggs again.**
2	What is the author's purpose? How does the way the passage is organized help meet that purpose?	**The author's purpose is to explain the monarch life cycle. Time order helps readers follow each change from egg to adult and back to eggs.**
3	Why does paragraph 2 use the words "Next" and "About ten to fourteen days later"?	**These words signal that another stage happens after the caterpillar stage and show how much time passes before the adult emerges.**
4	How does the final sentence contribute to the author's explanation?	**It shows that adult butterflies lay eggs, so the life cycle repeats with a new generation.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

First, a frog lays eggs in water. Next, tadpoles hatch and gradually grow legs as their tails shrink. Finally, young frogs leave the water, and this sequence structure helps readers follow each change in the frog's life cycle.

Accept responses that identify time order, sequence, or chronological order and connect it to the purpose of explaining the monarch's changes. For Part 3, accept accurate life-cycle details, at least two time-order words, a named structure, and a clear explanation of how the structure helps readers.