

Name: _____

Monarch Butterflies: Beautiful But Poisonous

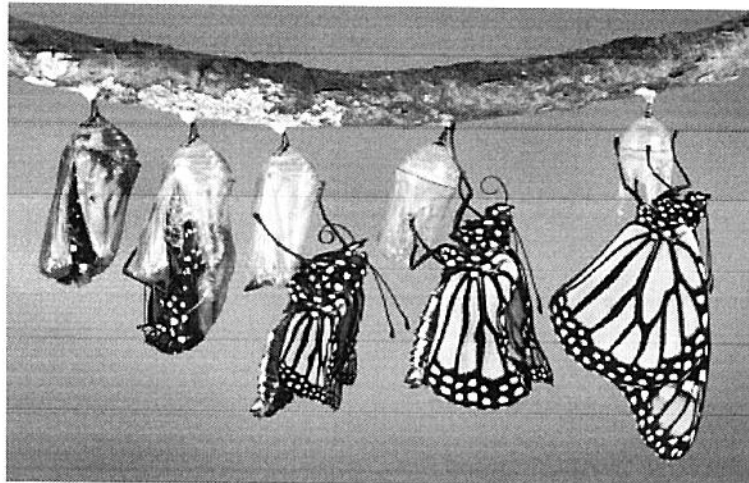
by Kelly Hashway

If you've ever seen a monarch butterfly, then you've probably noticed their bright orange and black colors. It makes them easy to see in the sky. You may think this would put the Monarch in harm from predators, but these bright colors are actually what protect the butterfly. Monarchs eat a plant called milkweed, which is why they are sometimes called



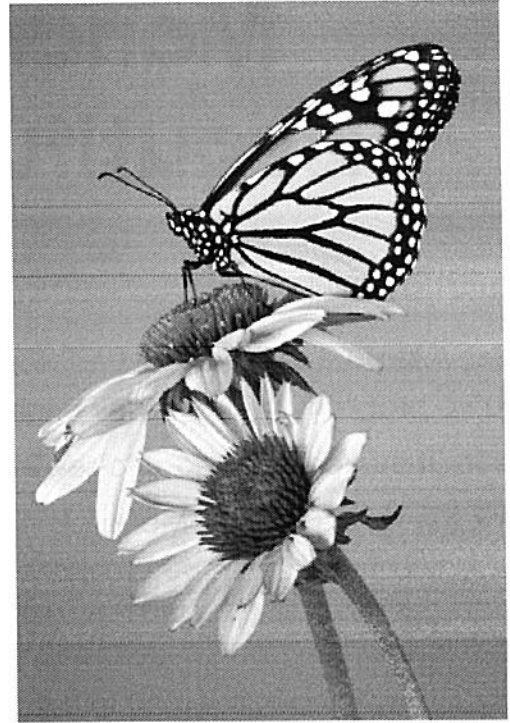
"milkweed butterflies." Milkweed contains toxins that are not poisonous to Monarchs but are poisonous to other living things. These toxins that are a regular part of the Monarch butterfly's diet make them poisonous to predators. A bird flying through the sky will leave the flashy colored Monarch alone because it knows those bright colors mean the Monarch is poisonous.

Monarch butterflies actually begin eating milkweed as larvae. As you probably know, butterflies begin as caterpillars. Monarch butterflies lay eggs on milkweed plants, and when an



egg hatches, the young caterpillar, or larva, begins to eat the milkweed. The caterpillar will eat the plant for about two weeks and grow to approximately two inches long. The caterpillar will then spin a silk pad and attach itself upside-down to a twig or leaf. Next it sheds its yellow, black, and white striped skin. This is the first step in the caterpillar's transformation to a butterfly.

Underneath the old skin of the caterpillar is a hard layer of skin called a chrysalis. The caterpillar will keep this chrysalis, or pupa, around its body and stay inside it for two weeks while it changes into a Monarch butterfly. The chrysalis will become transparent when the butterfly is ready to emerge. The Monarch uses the blood in its body to inflate its wings. Then it will hang in that same spot for hours until its wings dry and it can fly.



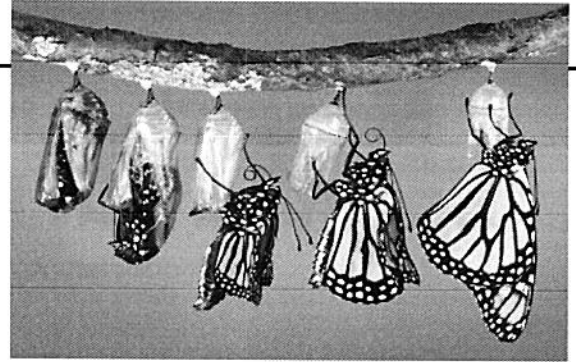
Monarch butterflies can live for very different lengths of time depending on what time of year they emerge from their chrysalis and become adult butterflies. If a Monarch reaches adulthood in early summer, it will most likely live for only two to five weeks. But if the Monarch becomes an adult at the end of the summer months, it will migrate south and live for about eight to nine months.

Monarchs can be found all over the world in tropic and sub-tropic areas. And if you'd like to observe them in your own yard, plant milkweed and wait for the Monarchs to come for a feast.

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1. What is a butterfly larva called?
 - a. caterpillar
 - b. chrysalis
 - c. pupa
 - d. a Monarch
2. About how long is a Monarch in the larvae stage? _____
3. Which would be the best way to attract Monarch butterflies to your yard?
 - a. place a dish of fruit on the lawn
 - b. plant milkweed in the yard
 - c. cut down large trees
 - d. place a small pool with water in the yard
4. Explain how a Monarch butterfly's bright colors help to protect it from predators.

5. Re-read these sentences from the article.

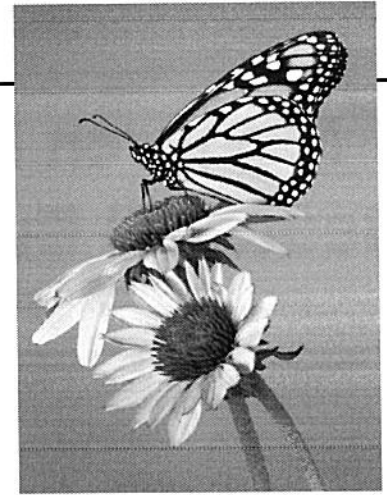
Next it sheds its yellow, black, and white striped skin. This is the first step in the caterpillar's transformation to a butterfly.

Which is the best definition for the underlined word.
 - a. grow older
 - b. sleep
 - c. remove
 - d. change

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Vocabulary Activity



Fill in the missing letters to create a vocabulary word from the story. Then write the full word on the line. Be sure you spell each word correctly.

1. ____ r y ____ ____ i ____

hint: pupa stage of a butterfly

2. ____ r a n ____ ____ ____ e n ____

hint: see-through; clear

3. ____ n f ____ ____ ____

hint: to fill up

4. ____ i g ____ ____ ____

hint: to move to another place

5. ____ w i ____

hint: small branch

6. ____ e a ____ t

hint: a large meal

7. ____ o ____ i ____ s

hint: poisons

Cursive handwriting practice

Worksheet 6



Carefully and neatly copy the following passage

There is a new waterpark in town. We go there on the first day of summer.

It has pools and water slides. There are sprinklers too. The slides are scary at first. After the first ride we love the slides. The sprinklers are cool on hot days. One of the pools makes its own waves. All the kids try to surf the waves.

If I were a butterfly, I would

Handwriting practice lines consisting of 10 sets of three horizontal lines (top solid, middle dashed, bottom solid) for writing.

Cursive Writing Worksheets: Sentences

Write the sentences:

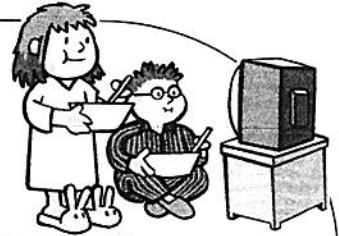
A long trip begins with a single step.

To have a good friend, be a good friend.

Mistakes are proof that you are trying.

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Adverbs of Frequency



Some adverbs tell us the frequency with which the action of the verb in the sentence happens. In other words, they tell us how often the subject of the sentence does something. Read each sentence. Rewrite the sentence on the line below, including the adverb found in the parentheses.

1. My niece and nephew watch cartoons while they eat breakfast. (sometimes)

My niece and nephew sometimes watch cartoons while they eat breakfast.

2. I eat pasta and vegetables for breakfast. (never)

3. We go for a long walk in the morning before school. (usually)

4. The students in my class speak English in the classroom. (always)

5. Peter and Sally go out dancing late at night. (rarely)

6. My entire family goes to the beach during the summer. (often)

7. I remember my manners, like holding the door open for the person behind me. (always)

8. JoBeth raises her hand to answer questions in class. (frequently)

9. My cousin and I get in trouble at school. (never)

10. Jason, Bobby, and Nick play soccer on the school field. (sometimes)

Misused Verbs: Will/Would

Name: _____

Some sentences that are talking about situations that haven't happened yet can be confusing. It can be hard to tell whether to use "will" or "would."



Which sentence is correct?

"Andrew said he **will** help me study for the test."

or

"Andrew said he **would** help me study for the test."

How can you tell? The key is in the verb tense just before you need to use the "will" or "would." If the **verb is in the past tense**, like "said" above, the correct word is "**would**." If the verb is in the **present tense**, like "says," the correct word is "**will**." So the **two correct ways** to say what Andrew will do are: "**Andrew said he would help me study for the test,**" AND "**Andrew says he will help me study for the test.**"

Choose "will" or "would" to complete each sentence.

1. If he doesn't finish his chores, he _____ (will/would) get in trouble.
2. If he got another speeding ticket, he _____ (will/would) lose his license.
3. My generous sister says that she _____ (will/would) loan me her shirt.
4. His elderly father promised that he _____ (will/would) stop smoking.
5. Our wonderful mother said that she _____ (will/would) drive us home.
6. If we don't pay the income tax, we _____ (will/would) go to jail.
7. My Spanish teacher told us that she _____ (will/would) give us a test.
8. If it started to rain any harder, it _____ (will/would) flood the yard.
9. Yesterday, my parents decided they _____ (will/would) move to Hawaii.
10. If I fill out the application well, I _____ (will/would) get the car loan.

Chaparral Ecosystems

Cross-Curricular Focus: Life Science



The chaparral ecosystem is a plant and animal community that is relatively rare. It is characterized by shrubland and a specific weather pattern. Winters in this ecosystem are mild and wet, and the summers tend to be hot and dry. The state of California in the United States has one of the world's largest chaparral ecosystems. They can also be found in parts of northern Mexico, Australia, Chile, and South Africa.

Wildfires occur frequently in this ecosystem. Lots of very flammable plant growth builds up in between fire seasons. Only about 15-39 inches of rain fall each year. Shrub plants of the chaparral are most likely to catch fire in the late summer or early fall. That's because the summers are extra dry. The thought of fire is frightening to people with homes or businesses. However, it is far more dangerous not to have wildfires. When there are no fires, the shrubs take over. Small fires once in a while are beneficial. They keep the plant growth under control. They also act in some other surprising ways. There are some plant species in chaparral ecosystems that cannot reproduce unless there has been a fire. The heat, smoke and changes in the soil that follow a burn actually release seeds from some plants.

What causes the frequent fires in this region? Sometimes lightning strikes will catch plants on fire. However, this accounts for only a small portion of the fires. Humans are the cause of many wildfires. A match, cigarette or campfire left carelessly unattended can cause a fire. Hot, dry winds, like the Santa Ana winds in California, make the fire go wild. If it has been a long time since the last fire, plants will fuel the fire. It is often very difficult for firefighters to put out these fires.

People who live in and near chaparral ecosystems have to clear plants from around their homes. This helps to prevent the home from being damaged in a fire.

Although there are hazards in this ecosystem, people can take steps to remain safe. Wildfires are a natural and important part of a healthy chaparral ecosystem.

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Answer the following questions based on the reading passage. Don't forget to go back to the passage whenever necessary to find or confirm your answers.

1) There are lots of disagreements between people who think we must prevent all wildfires, and people who think we need to let them happen. What do you think? Why? _____

2) What can people do to prevent accidental fires? _____

3) Give one statement from the passage that supports the idea that we should allow wildfires to burn. _____

4) When are the shrub plants most likely to catch fire? _____

5) What is the main idea of this passage? _____

