Monarch Butterflies

Name _____ Date _____

Nonfiction | 177 words | Sequence and cause and effect

I read it: ☆ to myself ☆ to a grown-up ☆ to a friend

1 Every fall, millions of orange and black monarch butterflies do something amazing. Monarchs from the eastern United States and Canada fly south to the mountain forests of central Mexico. Some travel as far as 3,000 miles, to a place they have never been before.

2 A monarch's life begins as a tiny egg laid on a milkweed plant. The caterpillar that hatches eats only milkweed leaves. After about two weeks, it forms a **chrysalis,** and inside, its body changes completely. About ten days later, an adult butterfly comes out.

3 Most monarchs born in summer live only a few weeks. But the monarchs that hatch at the end of summer are different. They can live up to eight or nine months, long enough to fly to Mexico, rest through the winter in huge **clusters** on fir trees, and begin the trip north in spring.

4 Monarchs need our help. Milkweed is disappearing from many fields and roadsides, and caterpillars cannot **survive** without it. Planting milkweed in a garden or schoolyard is one simple way to help these amazing travelers.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

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Monarch Butterflies: questions

Name _____ Date _____

I can find answers in the text. Look back at the text to check.

1 Circle the best answer

1. What do monarch caterpillars eat?

(a) only milkweed leaves (b) flower nectar (c) any green leaves

2. Where do eastern monarchs go?

(a) deserts in Arizona (b) forests in Mexico (c) the coast of Canada

3. Why do monarchs need help?

(a) winters are too short (b) they fly too far (c) milkweed is disappearing

2 True or false? Circle one.

Monarch caterpillars eat many kinds of plants.	True	False
Monarchs that hatch at the end of summer live longer.	True	False
Planting milkweed can help monarchs.	True	False

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

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Monarch Butterflies: words and writing

Name _____ Date _____

1 Match each word to its meaning. Draw a line.

chrysalis	○	○	groups packed close together
clusters	○	○	stay alive
survive	○	○	the hard case where a caterpillar changes

2 Write your answer in a full sentence.

Explain how a monarch changes from an egg into a butterfly.

3 Draw and label something you learned.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

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FOR TEACHERS AND PARENTS

Answer key: Monarch Butterflies

1 Circle the best answer

1. a) only milkweed leaves
2. b) forests in Mexico
3. c) milkweed is disappearing

2 True or false

False: Monarch caterpillars eat many kinds of plants.

True: Monarchs that hatch at the end of summer live longer.

True: Planting milkweed can help monarchs.

3 Word meanings

chrysalis: the hard case where a caterpillar changes

clusters: groups packed close together

survive: stay alive

4 Written answer (sample)

It starts as an egg on milkweed. A caterpillar hatches and eats milkweed, then forms a chrysalis. Inside, its body changes, and an adult butterfly comes out.

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