



Danaus plexippus

Monarch Caterpillar & Butterfly Fun Facts

(Student Handout)

1. What do monarch butterflies like to eat?
 - a. Milkweed
 - b. Bug juice
 - c. Nectar
 - d. Silly question! Monarchs don't eat, they only drink
2. Until about 300 years ago, most people in Europe believed caterpillars were made of _____.
 - a. Silk
 - b. Mud
 - c. Bat quano
3. Why do monarchs need help from humans?
 - a. Their habitat is disappearing
 - b. Predators, pesticides and diseases attack the eggs and caterpillars
 - c. Their numbers have decreased dramatically
 - d. All of the above
4. What plant is the only place where monarchs will lay their eggs?
 - a. Milkweed
 - b. Jack's bean stalk
 - c. Butterfly bush
 - d. Native flowers
5. What is the process called when a monarch goes through all the changes from birth to butterfly?
Answer: _____
6. For a monarch caterpillar, what is the next step in the lifecycle?
 - a. Laying an egg
 - b. Forming a chrysalis
 - c. Spinning a cocoon
 - d. Molting into a butterfly

7. What does eating the milkweed do to help protect monarch caterpillars and butterflies against predators?
 - a. It makes them poisonous
 - b. It gives them a magic invisibility cloak
 - c. It makes them change colors as a warning whenever a predator gets near
 - d. It makes their bones stronger

8. The stages of a butterfly's life cycle, in order, are:
 - a. Egg, cocoon, caterpillar, butterfly
 - b. Mud, caterpillar, butterfly
 - c. Egg, caterpillar, chrysalis, butterfly
 - d. Chrysalis, egg, caterpillar, butterfly

9. The way to tell a male monarch from a female, is:
 - a. Males have a dark smudge on each of their lower wings
 - b. Females have wider dark veins on their wings than males do
 - c. Both a. and b. are true
 - d. Neither a. or b. are true

10. For monarchs in North America that are born east of the Rocky Mountains, where do most of them go for the winter months?
 - a. To eat pizza in New York City
 - b. To forests in the mountains of Mexico
 - c. They hibernate underground
 - d. They fly high into the trees where they were born and wrap themselves in a silk cocoon



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Monarch Caterpillar & Butterfly Glossary

(Teacher's Answer Sheet)

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