



Name: _____

Monarch Butterfly Migration

Every fall, a magical event takes place in the sky. As the weather turns cool, millions of monarch butterflies begin an incredible journey. They leave their summer homes in places like Canada and the northern United States because they cannot survive the cold winter.

These delicate orange and black insects fly thousands of miles south to a place they have never been before: the warm, high mountains of central Mexico. They use the sun like a compass to help them find their way on this long and difficult trip.



Monarchs gathering

When they finally arrive, millions of butterflies gather in the oyamel fir forests. They cluster tightly together on the branches, covering entire trees and turning them bright orange. They rest here all winter, living off the energy they stored from flower nectar. This huge group of butterflies hanging together helps them stay warm and safe.

When spring arrives, the same monarchs become active again. They fly north, laying eggs on milkweed plants along the way. This new generation will continue the journey, ensuring the amazing migration continues year after year.

1. What triggers monarch butterflies to begin their migration?
 - a) The weather turning cool
 - b) A lack of food
 - c) The arrival of spring
2. How do the butterflies navigate their long journey?
 - a) They follow other birds.
 - b) They use the sun like a compass.
 - c) They remember the way from previous years.
3. Why do the butterflies cluster together on tree branches in Mexico?
 - a) To stay warm and safe
 - b) To hide from predators
 - c) To lay their eggs