

Main Idea & Supporting Details: Monarch Butterfly Migration



Name: _____ Date: _____

Read the passage below. Determine the central main idea and supporting details.

The Great Monarch Journey

This is an original practice passage, not a reproduction of a primary source. Read the answer explanations as interpretations of the provided text.

Every autumn, millions of monarch butterflies embark on an incredible journey of up to three thousand miles. Traveling south from Canada and the United States, they fly all the way to warm mountain forests in central Mexico to escape freezing winter temperatures.

What makes this migration extraordinary is that no single butterfly completes the entire round trip. It takes up to four successive generations of butterflies to make the journey back north in spring. Yet, each new generation instinctively knows the exact navigation route.

1. What is the primary main idea of this passage?

- A. Butterflies only enjoy eating nectar from wildflowers.
- B. Monarch butterflies undertake a miraculous multi-generational migration to survive the winter.
- C. Canada and the United States have very cold autumn weather.
- D. Mexican forests have high trees.

2. Which detail directly supports the fact that the migration is 'extraordinary'?

- A. No single butterfly completes the entire round trip; it takes up to four generations.
- B. The butterflies have orange and black wings.
- C. They fly during daylight hours.
- D. Flowers bloom during springtime.