



Lesson 1: Deep Dive into the Monarch Life Cycle

Deep Dive: Monarch Life Cycle

In this activity, you'll explore each stage of the Monarch butterfly's life cycle in depth. From egg to adult, Monarchs go through incredible changes. Let's take a closer look!

[Insert Monarch Lifecycle Diagram Here]

Part 1: Label the Stages

Below are the four stages of the Monarch butterfly's life cycle. Label each stage:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Part 2: Quick Draw

Draw one stage of the life cycle in the space below:

[_____]

Part 3: Dig Deeper

1. What does the caterpillar eat? Why is this important?

2. What changes happen inside the chrysalis?

3. Why do Monarchs lay their eggs on milkweed?

4. Which stage do you think is the most vulnerable? Why?

5. Describe the full life cycle in your own words.

Part 4: Write Like a Monarch!

Imagine you are a Monarch butterfly. Write a journal entry from your point of view during one stage of your life.

Dear Journal,



Lesson 2: Monarchs and Milkweed: A Lifesaving Plant

Monarchs and Milkweed: A Lifesaving Plant

Part 1: Read & Learn

Monarch butterflies are picky eaters! Monarch caterpillars only eat milkweed - a special plant called a host plant. A host plant is the one and only plant that a caterpillar can eat and grow on. Without milkweed, Monarchs can't survive!

Part 2: Think & Write

1. What is a host plant?
2. Why do Monarchs need milkweed to survive?
3. What might happen if all the milkweed disappeared?

Part 3: Observation Challenge

Go outside or look at pictures of plants. What signs would tell you if a plant is a host plant? Draw a milkweed plant or describe how it looks.

[Drawing Box]

Part 4: Compare & Contrast

Fill in the host plant for each butterfly below:



Lesson 3: Danger and Defense: How Monarchs Protect Themselves

Danger and Defense: How Monarchs Protect Themselves

Part 1: Read & Learn

Monarch butterflies may look delicate, but they've got some powerful survival tools! As caterpillars, they eat milkweed, which makes them taste bad to predators like birds. Some Monarchs are attacked by wasps or parasitic flies that lay eggs on them. Even their bright orange color is a warning sign: "Don't eat me!"

Part 2: Identify the Danger

Match each predator to the danger it poses:

Bird

Parasitic Fly

Spider

Wasp

Part 3: Draw a Warning Sign

Monarchs use bright orange color to warn predators they're poisonous.

Design a warning sign or Monarch 'superpower' logo below!

Part 4: What Can We Do?

List 2 ways humans can help Monarchs survive:

1. _____

2. _____



Lesson 4: Wings and Wishes: Monarch Migration & Release Day

Wings and Wishes: Monarch Migration & Release Day

Part 1: Monarchs on the Move

Map courtesy of Birds & Blooms

Monarch butterflies don't stay in one place. They travel thousands of miles during migration! In fall, Monarchs head south to Mexico to stay warm for the winter. Along the way, scientists study them by attaching tiny, safe tags to their wings. These tags help track where Monarchs go and how far they travel.

Part 2: Travel Tracker Activity

Monarchs can travel up to 100 miles a day! Imagine you're a butterfly on the move:

Day 1: Where would you stop to rest?

Day 2: What might you see along the way?

Day 3: What would you need to survive your trip?

Part 3: Release Day Reflection

You've helped raise a Monarch. Now it's time to let it go.

How did you feel when you released your butterfly?

What do you hope happens to it on its journey?

Write a wish you'd send with it on the wind.

[Write Your Wish Here]