

Monarch Butterfly

(Danaus Plexippus)



Flora
Fauna



The Monarch caterpillar only eats milkweed plants; therefore, this is where Monarchs deposit their eggs

**Explore Idaho
with Scout the Fox!**

Scout



How to Identify:

- Two sets of wings. Their mainly orange wings have black lace and white spots on the bottom.
- Underside of wings are pale orange, thorax and abdomen are black with white spots.
- Wingspan is 3 to 4 inches
- Short curled-up front legs
- Male Monarchs have a black spot in the center of its hind wing.

Habitat:

- Found in North America and other areas of the world where milkweed grows.
- It was previously thought that Monarchs that migrated from Idaho would only travel to California. There are new studies that have shown that Monarchs from Idaho travel to three different winter locations. The current theory is they winter in California, Mexico, and Arizona.
- Monarchs that winter in southern California use Eucalyptus, Monterey Cypress and Monterey Pine trees. Those that winter in Mexico stay in Oyamel Fir Trees at an elevation of almost 2 miles above sea level.

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More Fun Facts!

- A female Monarch can lay up to 1,000 eggs in her lifetime
- The Monarch is the only Butterfly known to make two-way migration
- The orange of the Monarch's wings is a warning to predators that the Butterfly tastes bad or is toxic. They get their bitter taste from the milkweed diet.
- Monarch caterpillars have been known to eat an entire milkweed leaf in five minutes. The caterpillar gains about 2,700 times their original weight





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Ways We Can Help With Conservation

- Planting native milkweed is an important way to help our Monarchs
- Create a pollinator garden with native plant species
- Participate in a citizen science opportunity. One example is www.monarchmilkweedmapper.org
- Stay away from pesticides and herbicides. Also, plants/seeds that are not pretreated with pesticides and herbicides. These chemicals can kill the Monarch Butterfly and the Milkweed it needs to survive.

ACTIVITY TIME

On your next trip to an Idaho State Park, see if you can locate any milkweed patches. Carefully observe to see if you can locate a caterpillar, chrysalis, or Monarch Butterfly. What did you see?

VOCABULARY

- Overwinter: to become dormant; hibernate
- Pollinator: helps the pollination process by moving pollen from one plant to the next



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WORD SEARCH

B	A	C	N	E	M	M	O	N	A	R	C	H	P	G	F	W	V	I	Z
N	V	S	A	F	E	K	T	Y	R	D	M	E	F	O	R	E	S	T	V
A	F	B	J	M	L	I	Y	V	X	E	R	N	B	C	H	I	Y	W	G
S	I	L	A	S	Y	R	H	C	Z	C	B	N	H	T	M	J	H	O	L
Q	G	J	R	D	A	I	B	V	T	K	U	R	Y	U	I	M	G	D	W
T	U	H	J	Q	V	Z	H	I	U	G	T	M	K	L	G	Q	Z	I	W
C	H	I	R	S	K	T	E	U	C	V	T	E	X	Q	R	H	R	C	N
A	S	B	A	N	E	C	T	A	R	F	E	R	C	U	A	S	E	V	S
T	L	E	H	C	X	E	V	R	M	S	R	Q	T	C	T	X	T	W	D
E	I	R	A	V	N	W	Q	X	A	C	F	R	E	Y	I	R	N	B	E
R	W	N	E	Y	T	B	V	R	P	Z	L	E	X	A	O	V	I	R	E
P	U	A	D	E	C	T	W	X	I	E	Y	C	V	Y	N	O	W	K	W
I	G	T	E	G	Q	P	H	I	A	V	K	R	E	S	J	C	R	S	K
L	A	I	T	G	F	M	L	A	R	V	A	E	W	T	P	M	E	A	L
L	F	O	G	E	V	R	V	W	Y	E	I	G	D	A	C	L	V	P	I
A	W	N	P	F	B	E	B	M	N	T	P	I	O	D	V	Z	O	Q	M
R	Y	H	C	E	I	C	V	Q	P	F	S	C	T	E	Y	A	V	U	X
D	E	C	E	S	I	S	O	H	P	R	O	M	A	T	E	M	P	L	I
A	T	J	V	T	K	V	R	U	D	W	H	I	R	S	B	U	W	B	U
D	U	R	J	P	V	E	U	C	A	L	Y	P	T	U	S	E	U	B	Q

1. MONARCH
2. CATERPILLAR
3. FOREST
4. EGG
5. OVERWINTER
6. EUCALYPTUS
7. CHRYSALIS
8. LARVAE
9. MIGRATION
10. METAMORPHOSIS
11. HIBERNATION
12. BUTTERFLY
13. MILKWEED
14. NECTAR