



Connection to the Museum: Our Smithsonian Habitat exhibit highlights the importance of native plants and pollinators in maintaining healthy ecosystems throughout the Texas Panhandle.

Grade level targeted: PK/Kindergarten

Connected learning targets:

Science: Observe living things and identify their basic needs.

ELAR: Ask questions and describe observations.

Fine Arts: Create artwork inspired by nature.

Objective of lesson:

Students will identify monarch butterflies and explain that butterflies need flowers to survive.

Summary of lesson:

Read a picture book such as *Hurry and the Monarch* by Antoine O'Flatharta.

Students observe pictures of monarch butterflies and discuss:

What colors do you see?

What do butterflies eat?

Why do butterflies visit flowers?

Students learn that monarch butterflies migrate through Texas each year.

Student Activity:

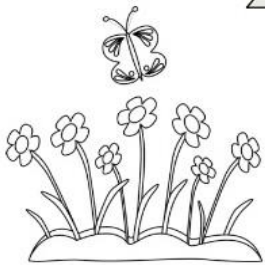
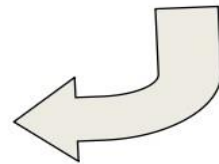
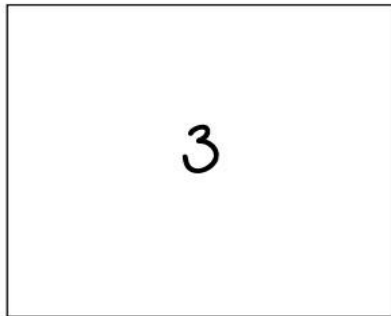
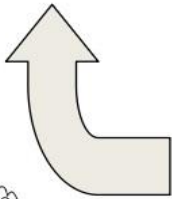
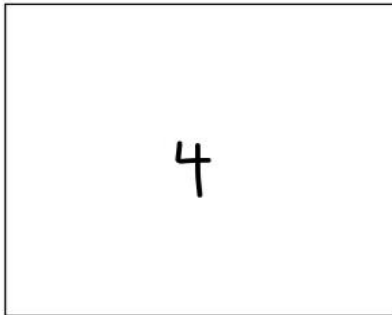
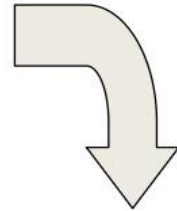
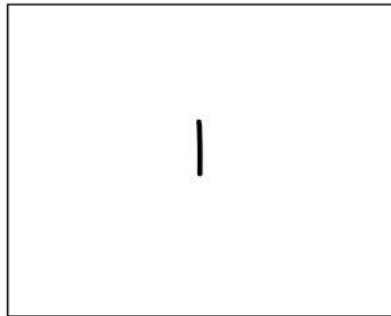
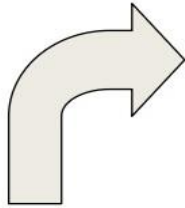
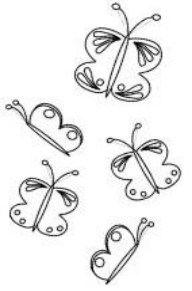
Color and decorate a butterfly life cycle or monarch butterfly craft.

Assessment:

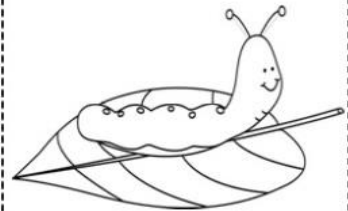
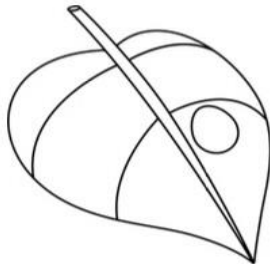
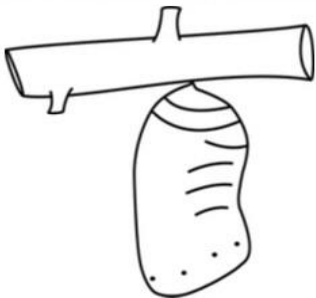
Students name one thing butterflies need to survive.

Name _____ Date _____

Life Cycle of a Butterfly



Created by Adrienne Mosiondz, 2013



Name one thing butterflies need to survive: _____



Connection to the Museum: Our Smithsonian Habitat exhibit demonstrates how butterflies, bees, and other pollinators support healthy habitats in the Texas Panhandle.

Grade level targeted: 1st – 2nd

Connected learning targets:

Science: Investigate life cycles and habitats.

ELAR: Make observations and communicate ideas.

Social Studies: Recognize seasonal changes.

Objective of lesson:

Students will explain the monarch butterfly life cycle and describe how pollinators help plants grow.

Summary of lesson:

Students learn about: Monarch life cycle, Pollination, Milkweed, and Migration

Discussion:

Why do butterflies visit flowers?

What is pollination?

Why is milkweed important?

Student Activity:

Arrange the monarch life cycle in the correct order.

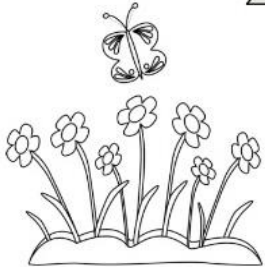
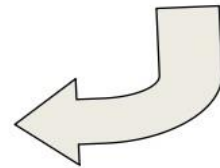
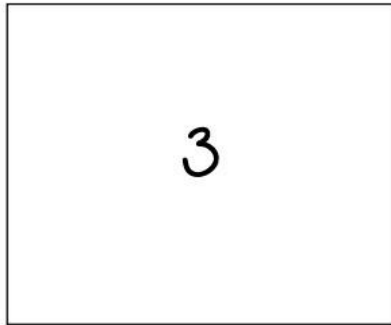
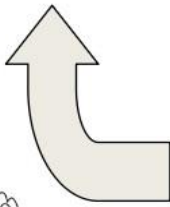
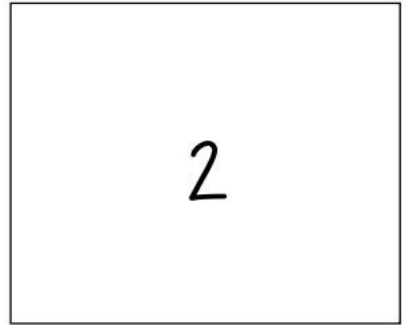
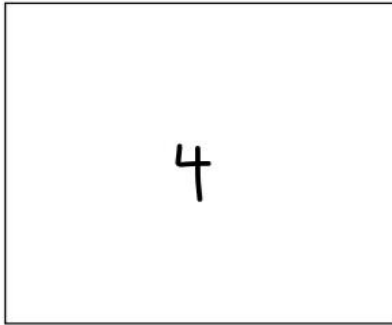
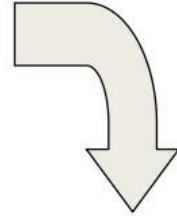
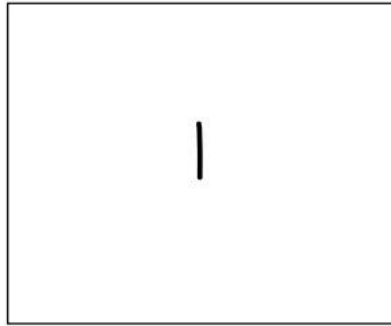
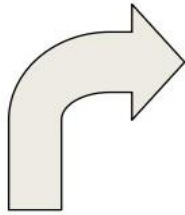
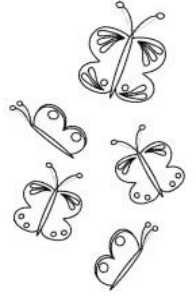
Assessment:

Complete the sentence:

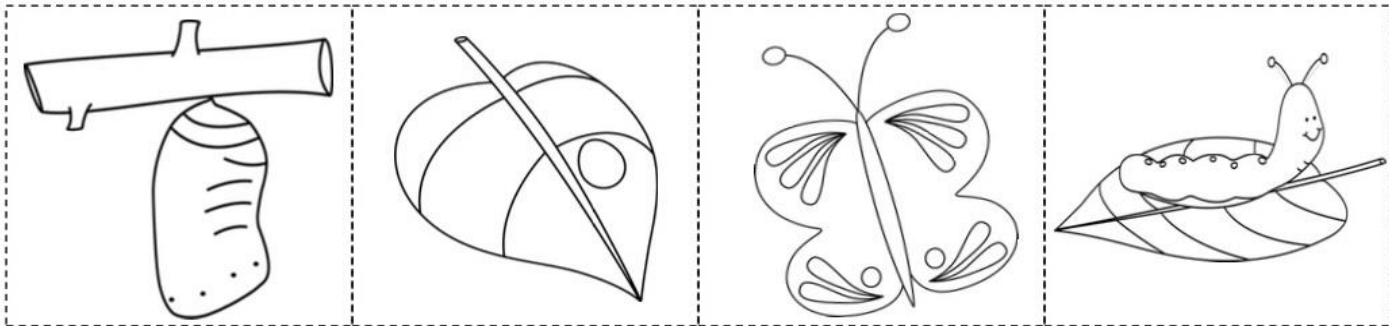
"Butterflies help plants by _____."

Name _____ Date _____

Life Cycle of a Butterfly



Created by Adrienne Mosiondz, 2013



Butterflies *help plants by* _____.



Connection to the Museum: Our Smithsonian Habitat exhibit demonstrates how native plants and pollinators work together to support wildlife and healthy ecosystems.

Grade level targeted: 3rd – 5th

Connected learning targets:

Science: Investigate ecosystems and interactions among organisms.

ELAR: Draw conclusions using evidence.

Environmental Science: Understand the role of pollinators.

Objective of lesson:

Students will investigate the role of monarch butterflies and other pollinators in maintaining healthy ecosystems.

Essential Question:

Why are pollinators important to plants and people?

Summary of lesson:

Pollinator Investigation

Students examine: Monarch butterflies, Bees, Native flowers, and Milkweed

Discussion Questions:

What happens during pollination?

Why are monarch populations declining?

How can people help pollinators?

Student Activity:

Students take a few minutes to go outside and observe pollinators in their habitat, then take a few minutes to write their observations.

Assessment:

Students explain how pollinators help both plants and people.

Name: _____

Pollinator Observation

Observe and record the pollinators that you see in your school garden or backyard!

Date: _____ Time: _____ Place: _____

Weather: _____

Observations: _____

Draw what you see

How do pollinators help both plants and people?



Connection to the Museum: Our Smithsonian Habitat exhibit encourages visitors to understand how conservation efforts help protect monarch butterflies and other native pollinators.

Grade level targeted: 6th – 8th

Connected learning targets:

Science: Analyze ecosystems and biodiversity.

Environmental Science: Evaluate human impacts on habitats.

ELAR: Support claims with evidence.

Objective of lesson:

Students will evaluate the ecological importance of monarch butterflies and other pollinators while examining conservation efforts.

Essential Question:

Why should we protect pollinators and their habitats?

Summary of lesson:

Habitat Investigation

Students investigate: Monarch migration, Native prairie plants, Pollinator diversity, Habitat loss

Discussion Questions:

What challenges do monarch butterflies face?

How does habitat loss affect migration?

What conservation efforts are helping monarchs?

Student Activity:

Create a habitat improvement plan for a school, park, or backyard that supports monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

Assessment:

Claim: Protecting pollinators is important because _____.

Evidence: _____.

Name: _____

Design a habitat improvement plan for a school, park, or backyard that supports monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

Claim: Protecting pollinators is important because _____.

Evidence: _____.



Connection to the Museum: Our Smithsonian Habitat exhibit illustrates the connections among native plants, pollinators, wildlife, and people, encouraging visitors to become active stewards of the Texas Panhandle's natural resources.

Grade level targeted: High School (9th – 12th)

Connected learning:

Biology
Environmental Science
Ecology
Agriculture

Objective of lesson:

Students will evaluate the ecological and economic importance of pollinators while analyzing current conservation efforts affecting monarch butterflies.

Essential Question:

How do pollinators influence biodiversity, agriculture, and ecosystem health?

Summary of lesson:

Students investigate: Monarch migration, Native pollinators, Habitat fragmentation, Agricultural impacts, and Conservation practices

Discussion:

Why are pollinator populations changing?
How does agriculture depend on pollinators?
What role can communities play in conservation?

Student Activity:

Develop a conservation proposal recommending ways the museum, school, or community could create pollinator-friendly habitats using native Texas plants.

Assessment:

Write a museum exhibit label describing the importance of monarch butterflies or another native pollinator and explain how protecting its habitat benefits the entire ecosystem.

Name: _____

Develop a conservation proposal recommending ways the museum, school, or community could create pollinator-friendly habitats using native Texas plants.

Write a museum exhibit label describing the importance of monarch butterflies or another native pollinator and explain how protecting its habitat benefits the entire ecosystem.
