



Amazing Monarchs



September and October are when monarch butterflies migrate from breeding areas in North America and Canada to wintering areas in Mexico and southern California. Learn more about monarchs with the activities below and keep an eye out for these incredible insects on your next hike!

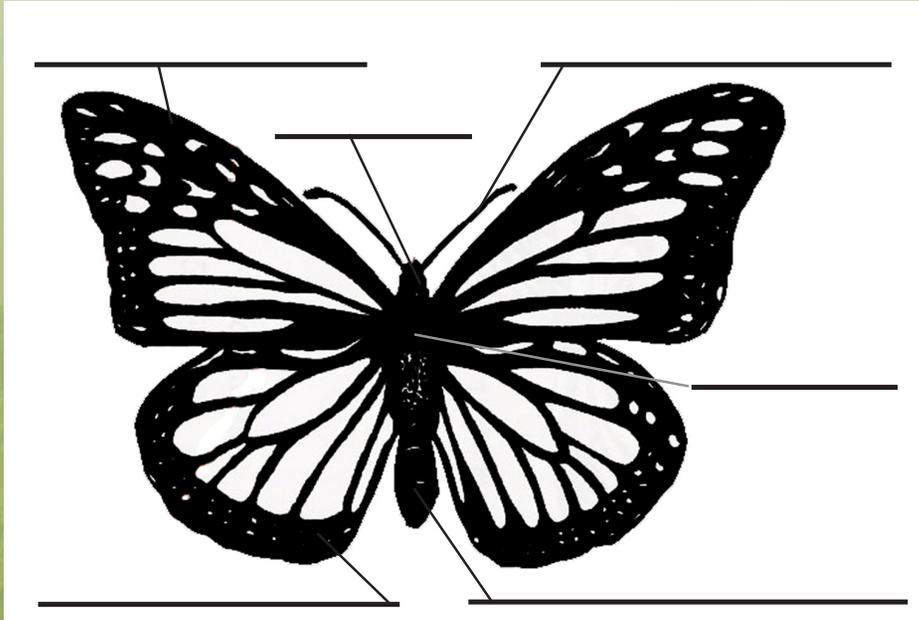


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Parts of a Butterfly

Label the monarch diagram below using the following words:

- forewing
- hindwing
- abdomen
- head
- antennae
- thorax



Monarch Life Cycle

Monarch eggs, caterpillars, and pupae are almost always found on milkweed plants. Look for milkweed and the early stages of a monarch's life cycle along forest edges and in fields in late spring and summer.



milkweed



egg



caterpillar



pupa or chrysalis

Monarch or Viceroy?

Monarchs have a look-alike called the viceroy. Both species can be found feeding on wildflowers through the summer and fall. You can tell them apart by looking at the hindwing. A viceroy has a black line across it's hindwing.



monarch



viceroy

A Record-setting Migration

It takes monarchs four generations to migrate from their overwintering grounds in central Mexico to their breeding habitat in the northern United States and Canada during the spring and summer. In the fall, the fourth generation makes the entire 2000 to 3000 mile journey back to Mexico! Fourth generation monarchs live up to 8 months and travel farther than any other insect on the planet.

Learn more at www.monarch-butterfly.com and www.learner.org/jnorth/monarch