



**Metropolitan Water  
Reclamation District  
of Greater Chicago**

**STEAM ACTIVITIES**

# Save the Monarch Butterfly



SUGGESTED  
LEARNING  
LEVEL:  
**4th - 6th**

## **INSIDE**

Learn facts about the monarch butterfly.

Find out how to save this beautiful insect.

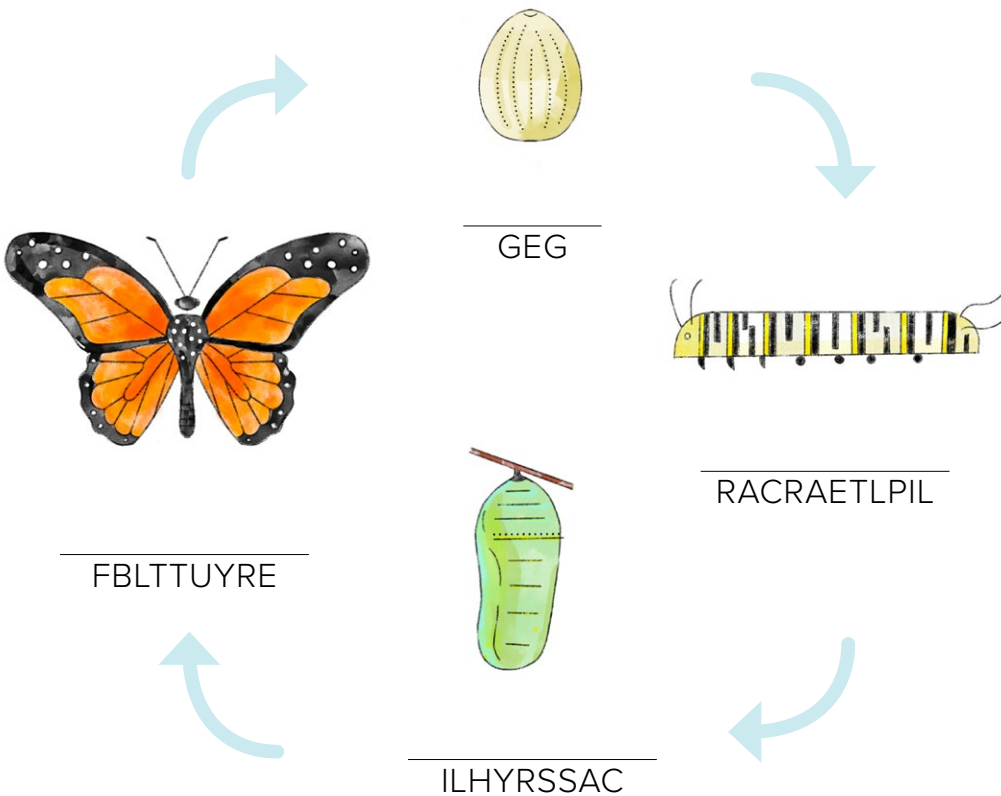
Complete fun STEAM activities.

Similar to other insects, the monarch butterfly has several life forms and stages before it reaches adulthood. The monarch has four different life stages:

- ovum/egg
- larva/caterpillar
- pupa/chrysalis
- adult butterfly

### MONARCH BUTTERFLY LIFE CYCLE WORD SCRAMBLE

Unscramble the words below and write the answers on the lines.



▲ **A monarch egg about to hatch.**

The female monarch butterfly lays its eggs on milkweed plants and when the caterpillars emerge, this plant is their sole source of food as they grow into adults. After a few weeks the caterpillars enter the pupa stage and produce a chrysalis. They appear days later as spectacular monarch butterflies!

These new adult butterflies continue the migratory journey, feeding on diverse flowering plants for nourishment. Cook County is part of the monarch butterfly's annual migration route from Mexico to Canada and back, providing a stopover or visit to native milkweed species.

New studies suggest that monarch butterfly populations have rapidly declined due to habitat loss and global climate change, resulting from development, poor land management practices, and threats from pesticides.

▶ **This monarch caterpillar is enjoying milkweed leaves.**



## WORD FIND

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



◀ You can see the monarch butterfly growing inside its chrysalis!

Find these words from the previous summary.

- |            |                |
|------------|----------------|
| Milkweed   | Caterpillar    |
| Butterfly  | Journey        |
| Plants     | Climate Change |
| Pesticides | Chrysalis      |

## SOLVE THE PROBLEMS.

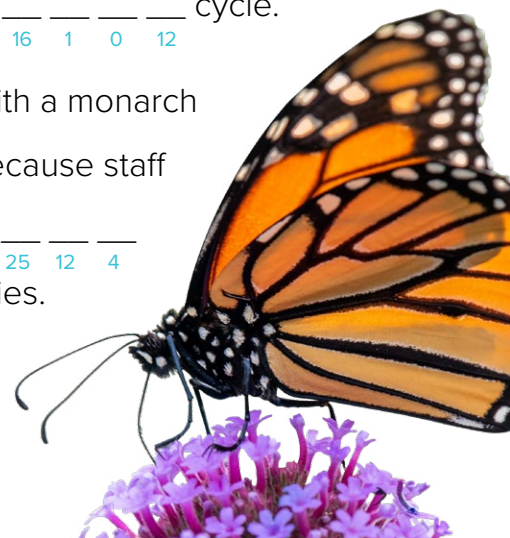
Then fill in the boxes with the correct answers. Use the letters that match the answers to complete the sentences.

- |                        |                         |                        |                        |
|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| $3 \times 2 =$ _____ m | $3 \times 12 =$ _____ c | $6 \times 2 =$ _____ e | $3 \times 3 =$ _____ s |
| $5 \times 3 =$ _____ n | $4 \times 7 =$ _____ a  | $4 \times 0 =$ _____ f | $4 \times 4 =$ _____ l |
| $4 \times 1 =$ _____ r | $9 \times 2 =$ _____ o  | $2 \times 1 =$ _____ y | $5 \times 5 =$ _____ t |
| $6 \times 4 =$ _____ h | $10 \times 8 =$ _____ ' | $1 \times 1 =$ _____ i | $1 \times 7 =$ _____ w |
| $2 \times 5 =$ _____ b | $8 \times 4 =$ _____ u  |                        |                        |

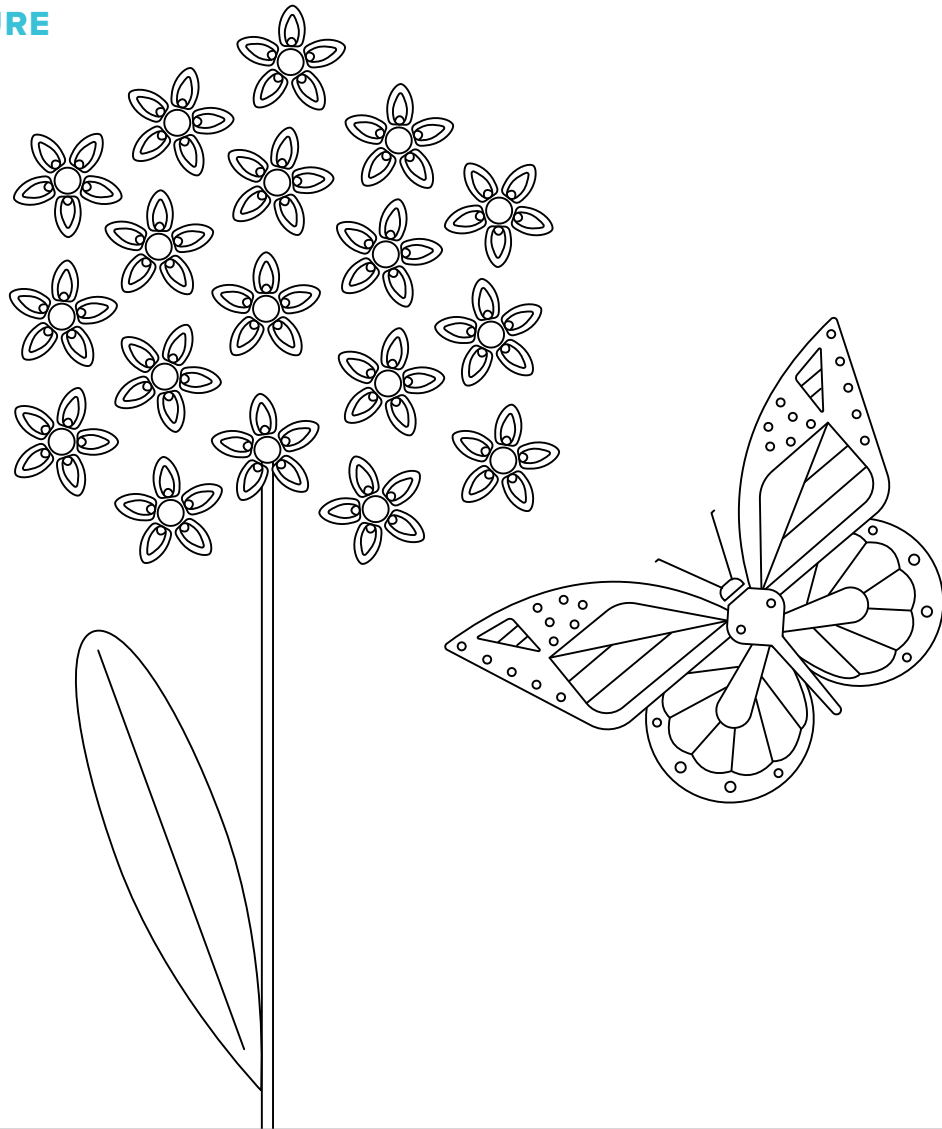
Planting milkweed helps to expand the \_\_\_\_\_  
6 18 15 28 4 36 24  
 \_\_\_\_\_ habitat, which is essential to its \_\_\_\_\_ cycle.  
10 32 25 25 12 4 0 16 2 80 9 16 1 0 12

MWRD's Stickney Water Reclamation Plant was recently certified with a monarch  
 \_\_\_\_\_ by the Monarch Watch program because staff  
7 28 2 9 25 28 25 1 18 15  
 have planted milkweed, nectar sources and provided \_\_\_\_\_  
9 24 12 16 25 12 4  
 to foster a thriving habitat for the monarch butterfly and other species.

Like many native plants, milkweed has an extensive root system that can help reduce flooding and improve water quality.



**COLOR THIS PICTURE**



**FREE**

# Milkweed Seeds

**Cook County Parents/ Educators/ Friends:** Join us in our efforts by planting milkweed.

While supplies last, we will send you a complimentary packet of milkweed seeds (available to Cook County residents only) when you complete and submit an online pledge.

Visit [mwr.org](http://mwr.org) for more information.

**WARNING.** Harmful if ingested. Keep out of reach of children and pets.

**ANSWER KEY**

**WORD UNSCRAMBLE:** egg, caterpillar, chrysalis, butterfly

**WORD FIND**

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

**SOLVE THE PROBLEMS:** monarch, butterfly's, life, waystation, shelter

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