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 mwrd.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

SOLVE THE PROBLEMS: monarch, butterfly’s, life, waystation, shelter

STEAM ACTIVITIES

Save 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.

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GEG  RACRAETLPIL  ILHYRSSAC  FBLTTUYRE
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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**

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

3 x 2 = ____ m 3 x 12 = ____ c 6 x 2 = ____ e 3 x 3 = ____ s
5 x 3 = ____ n 4 x 7 = ____ a 4 x 0 = ____ f 4 x 4 = ____ l
4 x 1 = ____ r 9 x 2 = ____ o 2 x 1 = ____ y 5 x 5 = ____ t
6 x 4 = ____ h 10 x 8 = ____ i 1 x 1 = ____ i 1 x 7 = ____ w
2 x 5 = ____ b 8 x 4 = ____ u

Planting milkweed helps to expand the _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ habitat, which is essential to its _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ cycle.

MWRD’s Stickney Water Reclamation Plant was recently certified with a monarch _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ by the Monarch Watch program because staff have planted milkweed, nectar sources and provided _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ 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.