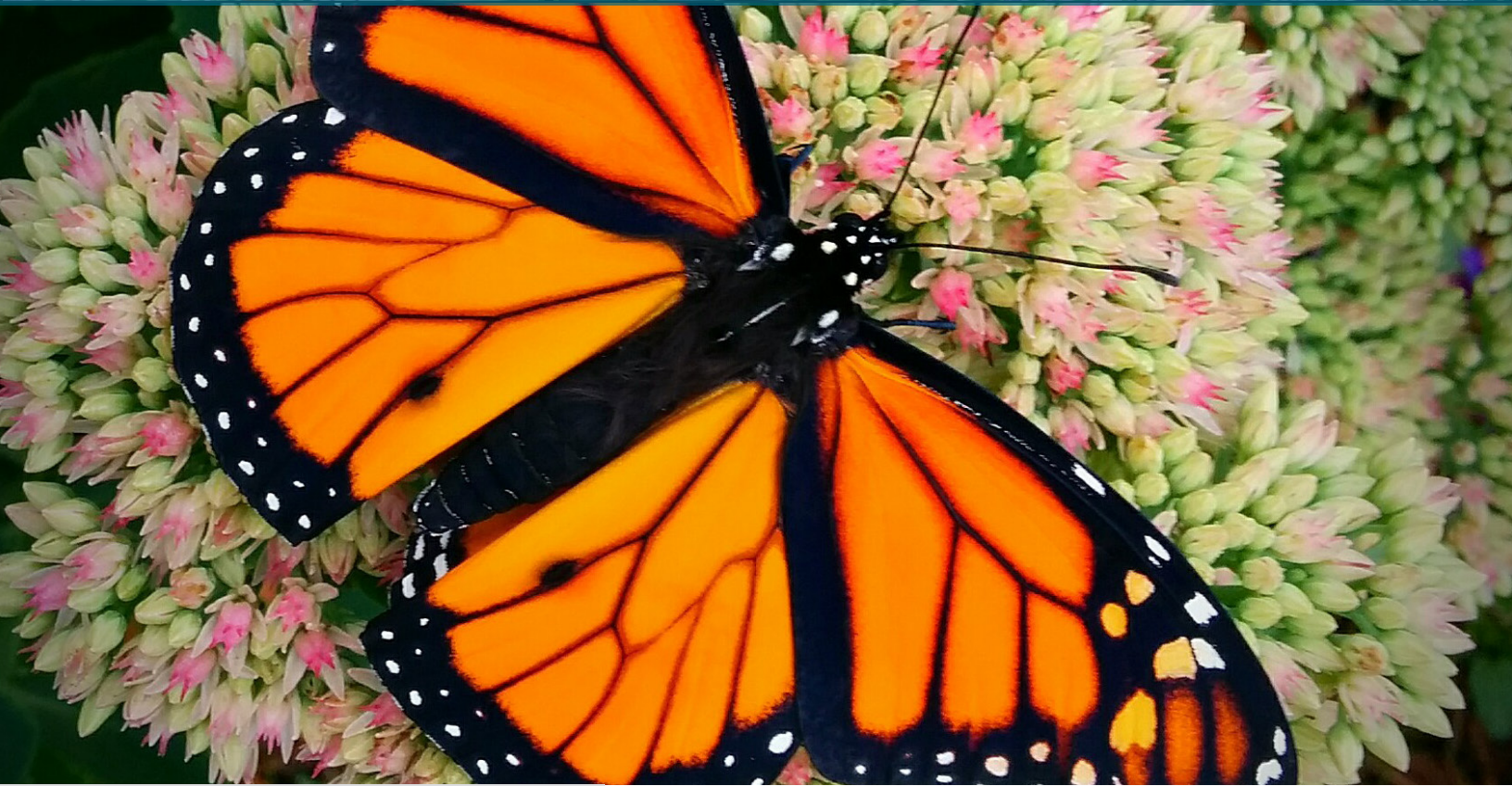


RAMSEY READER



THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES:

Saerch for butterflies

Make a puppet

Read a good book

Monarch Butterflies

You may know that the common loon is the state bird of Minnesota, but did you know that we also have a state butterfly? That's right! The monarch butterfly was proclaimed the state butterfly in 2000. Minnesota is a summer home to the majestic monarch butterfly. These amazing creatures are one of the few migratory insects. Read on to learn more and to find information on some local parks where you may be able to see this regal butterfly.

Locate the monarchs



Monarch butterflies lay their eggs exclusively on milkweed, which their caterpillars then eat.

More than 100 species of this herbaceous perennial are native to the U.S. and Canada. The most common milkweed species in Minnesota is, you guessed it, the Common Milkweed or *Asclepias syriaca*.

If monarch eggs are laid on plants other than milkweed, the caterpillars cannot survive and ultimately starve. Because of this, there's a very good chance that you can find monarch butterflies in their various forms in areas that are rich in milkweed.



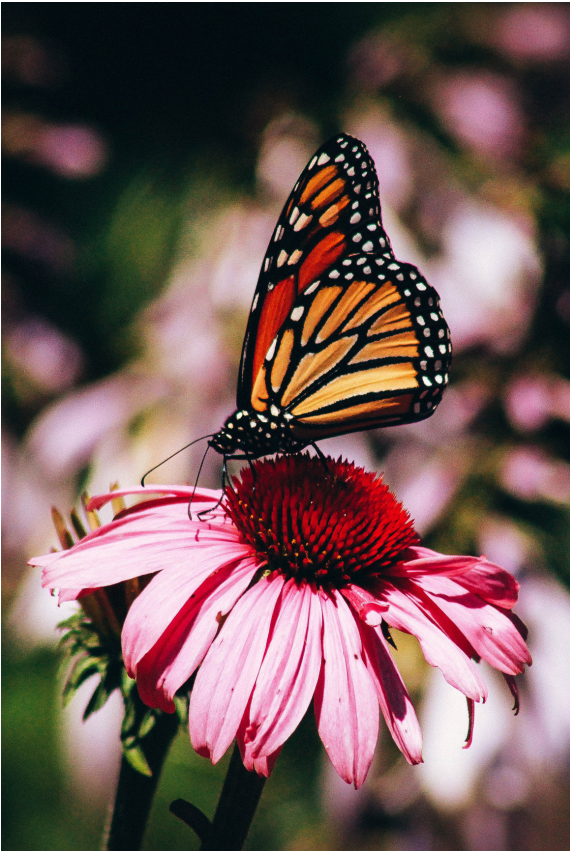
SEARCH FOR MONARCH BUTTERFLIES

Go on a search for monarch butterflies and enjoy their beauty up close. You'll find milkweed throughout Ramsey County's parks, but here are two parks with restored prairies that have milkweed.

Long Lake Regional Park Check out the restored prairie area along the park entrance road. Park at the New Brighton History Center, 700 Park Drive in New Brighton and walk the paved trail back towards the park entrance. Look for milkweed and monarchs on both sides of the road.

Battle Creek Regional Park You can find the trailhead at the intersection of Upper Afton Road & Ferndale Street in Maplewood. The hike leads to a beautiful prairie with plenty of milkweed and offers a wonderful experience and great chances to see some monarchs.

Amazing migration



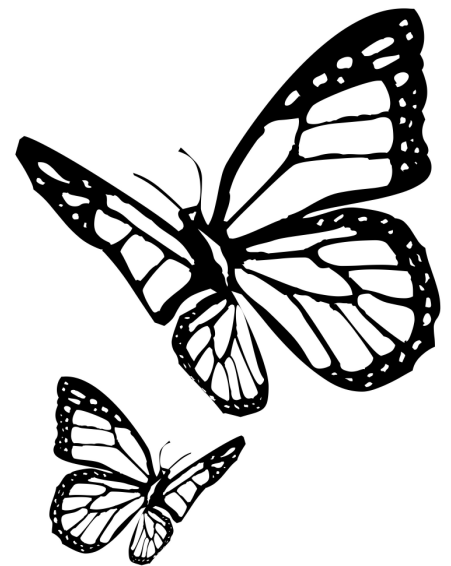
The monarch butterflies that are found in Minnesota during the summer spend their winter in the warm weather of Mexico. They are one of the few butterfly species that migrate north and south like birds. During the summer months, approximately four generations of monarchs are born in Minnesota, each living for about four weeks. However, the final generation of the season lives nearly six months! This last generation migrates back to Mexico to lay eggs. An entirely new generation makes the migration back north in the spring. They somehow find their way to Minnesota even though those individual monarchs have never been here before.

See a migratory map:
www.monarchwatch.org

→ PLAY A MATCHING GAME

Can you match the English word to the Spanish word? Draw a line connecting each pair. Answers can be found on the last page of this activity guide.

- | | |
|---------------|--------------|
| Butterfly • | • Ala |
| Chrysalis • | • Oruga |
| Caterpillar • | • Probóscide |
| Wing • | • Mariposa |
| Antenna • | • Crisálida |
| Proboscis • | • Antena |



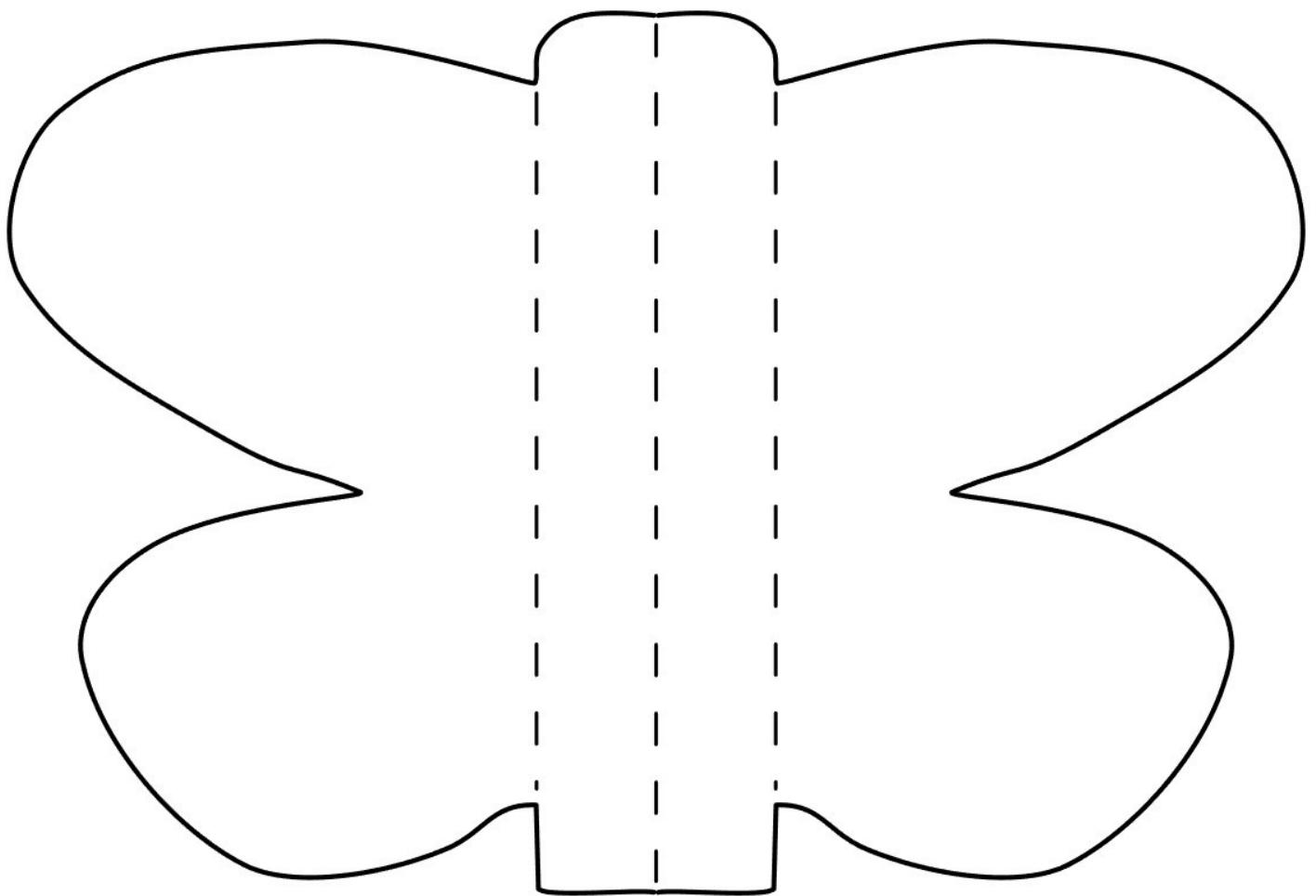
Flapping butterfly puppet



CREATE A PUPPET

What you'll need: access to a printer, printing paper, watercolor or acrylic paints, paintbrushes, scissors, tape or stapler, craft or popsicle stick

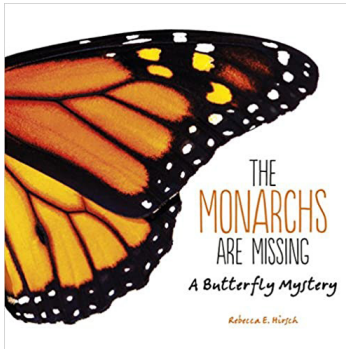
1. Print your butterfly and color them. One way to make the wings symmetrical is to paint one wing and then, while the paint is still wet, fold the puppet on the center dashed line so the other wing touches the wet paint. Open it up to find the same print on both sides.
2. Cut out your butterfly along the solid line.
3. Fold your butterfly puppet in half along the center dashed line, and then fold the wings down on the other two dashed lines. Folding the wings up and down a few times will make them flap more easily.
4. Attach the center body of your puppet to the end of a craft stick with tape or a staple.
5. Take your butterfly and go visit some flowers! Move the stick up and down so your butterfly's wings flap, and fly from flower to flower to drink nectar.



Ramsey readers

Here are some interesting books to get your little learners interested in monarch butterflies. All of these books are available through Ramsey County Library. Book descriptions from: www.rclreads.org

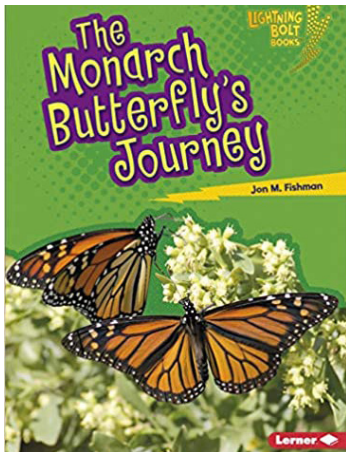
→ DIVE INTO A GOOD BOOK



The Monarchs are Missing: A Butterfly Mystery

by Rebecca E. Hirsch

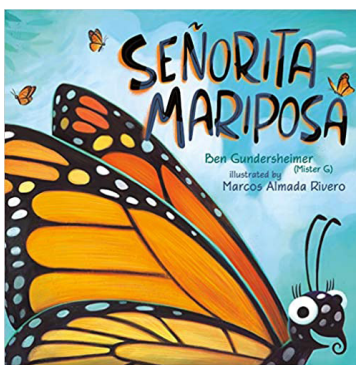
Why are monarch butterflies disappearing? Scientists are racing to find answers. These iconic orange, black, and white butterflies flutter across much of the North American continent, and are a familiar summer sight in many backyards. But in the last twenty years, the monarch butterfly population has been decreasing. Why?



The Monarch Butterfly's Journey

by Jon M. Fishman

Monarchs are some of the most well-known migrators. But did you know that monarch caterpillars shed their skin four times as they grow? Follow the journey of the monarch butterfly! From a tiny egg to an orange and black butterfly, and all the way down to Mexico.



Señorita Mariposa

by Ben Gundersheimer (Mister G)

Rhyming text in both English and Spanish and lively illustrations showcase the epic trip taken by the monarch butterflies. Children will be delighted to share in the fascinating journey of the monarchs and be introduced to the people and places they pass before they finally arrive in the forests that their ancestors called home.

Learn more

There's so much more to learn about monarch butterflies. Check out these select resources to continue exploring and discovering.

Monarch Joint Venture

Inspired by Marvelous Monarchs week to help the monarch butterflies? Head on over to Monarch Joint Venture for resources on monarch conservation, migration, education and citizen science projects that everyone can join!

monarchjointventure.org

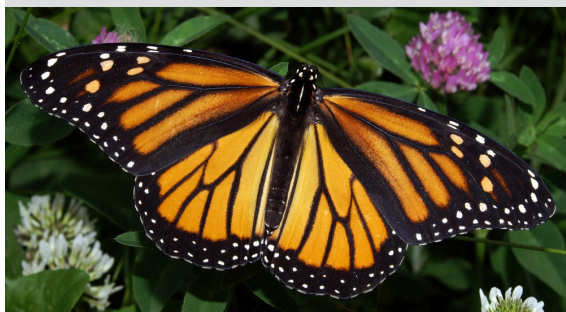
University of Minnesota Extension

Support the monarchs by growing a butterfly garden of your own.

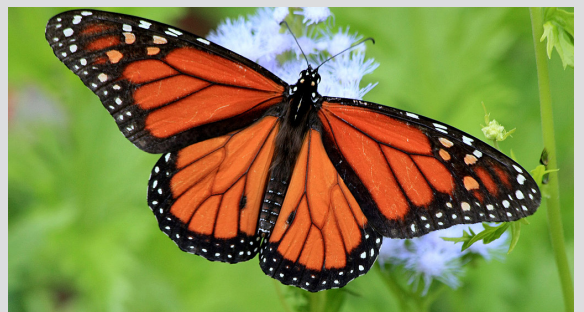
tiny.cc/butterflygarden

Matching game answers

Butterfly=Mariposa, Chrysalis=Crisálida, Caterpillar=Oruga, Wing=Ala, Antenna=Antena, Proboscis=Probóscide



Female butterfly



Male butterfly

Did you know?

Through keen observation, you can “spot” the difference between male and female monarchs. Male monarchs have thinner black veins running through the orange of their wings, as well as a black spot on their hind wing. Females lack the spot and have thicker veins. Can you see the difference between the two photos above?