BUT WHY

A Lesson Plan Grade 3-5

But Why is led by you, kids! Kids all over the world send us questions, and we find the answers. We've created these learning units to be used in a classroom setting or at home. Watch the video first and then use this guide to deepen your understanding of what you've learned. Find more episodes at butwhykids.org.

But Why: Adventures! Northeast Nature | AUGUST: MONARCH BUTTERFLIES

DRIVING QUESTION:

What is the unique life cycle of monarch butterflies?

Objectives: Students will

- Be able to explain the life cycle of the monarch butterfly.

Activities:

1. Fill out KWL in a science notebook.
2. Watch the video and have students use the notebook to reflect on what they learned.
3. Take students on a nature walk to find milkweed.
4. Be a citizen scientist and interact with the Butterfly Monitoring project.

Vermont Early Learning Standards (PreK-Grade 3) Learning About the World: Science: Element 2 Life Sciences. Social Studies Element 1 Inquiry and Element 3 Physical & Cultural Geography (conservation).

K-LSI-1, ESS3-1

Vermont Public

Learning Targets: NGSS K-LS1-1, 5-ESS3-1

BUT WHY

Feelings & Vocabulary

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But Why: Adventures! Northeast Nature | AUGUST: MONARCH BUTTERFLIES

TEACHER TIPS:

Recommended reading:

- **Journey North:** https://journeynorth.org/monarchs
- **"Monarch Butterfly: What is Citizen Science?" from the U.S. Department of Agriculture**: https://www.fs.usda.gov/wildflowers/pollinators/Monarch_Butterfly/citizenscience/index.shtml
- **"Citizen science key to preserving monarch butterflies' grand migration, experts say" from VTDigger:** https://vtdigger.org/2024/10/15/citizen-science-key-to-preserving-monarch-butterflies-grand-migration-experts-say/

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Learning Targets: NGSS K-LS1-1, 5-ESS3-1

BUT WHY

Watch & Connect

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WATCH & CONNECT:

Draw or write in the boxes.

K (Know). What do you know about monarch butterflies?

W (Want to know). What do you want to know about monarch butterflies?

L (Learn). What did you learn about monarch butterflies?



Vermont Public

Learning Targets: NGSS K-LS1-1, 5-ESS3-1

Watch & Doodle

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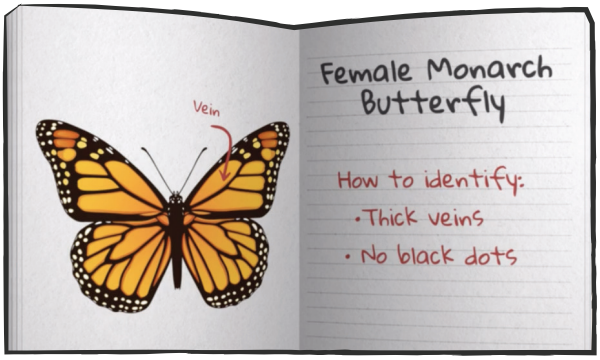
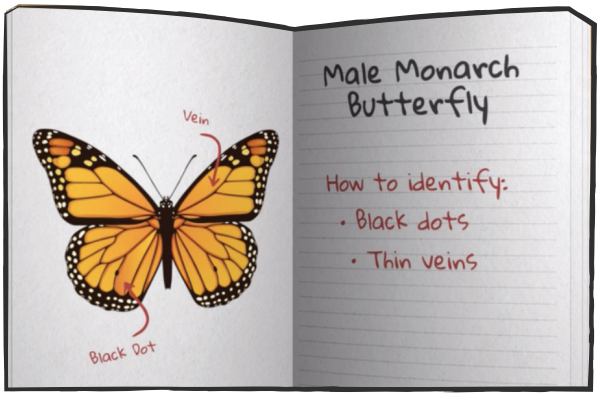
WATCH & DOODLE:

What patterns or shapes or patterns can you see in the butterfly wings?
Draw what you see.

FEMALE MONARCH:



MALE MONARCH:



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Learning Targets: NGSS K-LS1-1, 5-ESS3-1

BUT WHY

Citizen Scientist Connection

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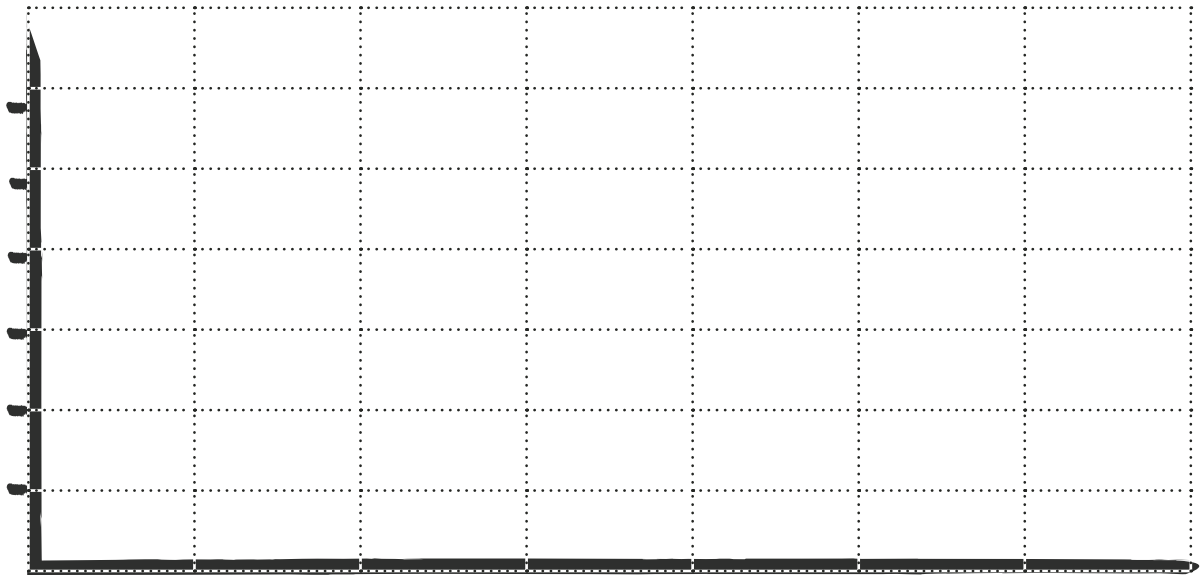
But Why: Adventures! Northeast Nature | AUGUST: MONARCH BUTTERFLIES

BE A CITIZEN SCIENTIST:

Go to: https://www.fs.usda.gov/wildflowers/pollinators/Monarch_Butterfly/citizenscience/index.shtml

Find out more at Journey North: https://journeynorth.org/monarchs

CHALLENGE: If you look at the information closely you might see a pattern that can be graphed below:



Vermont Public

Learning Targets: NGSS K-LS1-1, 5-ESS3-1

Monarch

[MONN·arc] • *noun*

An orange and black migratory butterfly found across North America.

Caterpillar

[CAT·ur·pill·ur] • *noun*

The larva of a butterfly or moth

Instar

[IN-star] • *noun*

A stage of growth for an insect or other arthropod in between molting

Chrysalis

[CRISS·uh·liss] • *noun*

The pupal stage of a butterfly, encased in a hard protective outer layer. Sometimes chrysalis refers to the stage of life, but it can also refer to the protective layer itself, also sometimes called a cocoon.

What new words did you learn? Make your own vocabulary cards.