**GRADE 6** 

# Strong reading skills are the foundation learning!

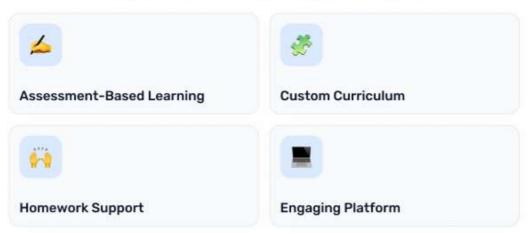
Is your child struggling with reading comprehension, fluency, or vocabulary?

Brighterly's expert reading tutors make lessons fun, personalized, and effective - whether your child is just starting out or ready to level up their literacy skills.

From phonics to reading confidence, we're here to help your child love reading - and get better at it every day.



### Why Learn with Brighterly?



Read the passage "The Science Behind Earthquakes" carefully. Then answer the following questions based on your understanding of the text. Use evidence from the text when required.

### The Majestic Monarch Butterfly



The Monarch butterfly (Danaus plexippus) is one of the most well-known and admired insects in the world, famous for its incredible migration journey and its vibrant orange and black wings. Found primarily in North America, these butterflies are a symbol of resilience, beauty, and transformation. The Monarch's life cycle and migration are not only fascinating but also hold significant ecological importance.

The Monarch butterfly begins its life as a tiny egg laid by a female Monarch on a milkweed plant. The egg hatches into a larva, better known as a caterpillar. These caterpillars are easily recognizable by their black, white, and yellow stripes. For several weeks, the caterpillar feeds voraciously on the milkweed, growing rapidly in size. During this stage, it molts (sheds its skin) several times, eventually reaching its full size.

Once the caterpillar has grown sufficiently, it enters the next phase of its life cycle: the pupa or chrysalis stage. The caterpillar forms a chrysalis around itself and undergoes a remarkable transformation. Inside the chrysalis, the caterpillar undergoes metamorphosis, turning into a butterfly. This transformation can take about 10 days, but it depends on environmental conditions. After this stage, the adult butterfly emerges, ready to start the cycle anew.

Monarch butterflies are perhaps best known for their astonishing migration, one of the longest of any insect species. Each year, millions of Monarchs travel thousands of miles from their breeding grounds in Canada and the northern United States to their wintering grounds in Mexico. This migration is not only a marvel of nature but also a significant mystery. The Monarchs travel through harsh weather, cross mountain ranges, and face numerous dangers. Despite this, they manage to find their way to the same specific forests in Mexico every year, where they cluster together to survive the winter.

The journey of the Monarch is truly a feat of endurance and navigation. Unlike other migratory species, Monarchs are not taught the route by their parents. Instead, this knowledge is passed down through generations. Monarchs that travel south do not return north; their offspring do. This incredible journey spans multiple generations, each one taking part in the journey without having been there before.

The migration of the Monarch is guided by various factors, including the Earth's magnetic field, the position of the sun, and environmental cues. Studies have shown that the Monarchs have a "genetic map" that helps them navigate their journey. Once they arrive at their wintering grounds, the Monarchs cluster together in the forests of Michoacán, Mexico, to keep warm and survive the cold months. These forests provide the perfect habitat for them to rest and wait until the spring when they begin their journey north again.

The Monarch butterfly is not only fascinating due to its migration but also because it plays an important role in the ecosystem. Monarchs are key pollinators, helping many plants, especially milkweed, reproduce. Their caterpillars feed almost exclusively on milkweed, which is toxic to many other animals but provides essential nutrients to the Monarch larvae.

As adult butterflies, Monarchs feed on nectar from a variety of flowers, which aids in pollination. This interaction is vital for the reproduction of many plant species, and in turn, it supports the broader food web. Without the Monarch, the plants that rely on them for pollination would be less successful, and other species that depend on these plants for food would be affected.

Additionally, the Monarch butterfly is a critical species for conservation efforts. Due to their decline in recent years, particularly because of habitat destruction, pesticide use, and climate change, the Monarch has been designated as a species of concern. Conservation efforts focus on protecting their migratory routes, planting more milkweed, and ensuring that their wintering grounds remain protected. These efforts are not only crucial for Monarchs but for maintaining the health of ecosystems that rely on these butterflies and other pollinators.

The Monarch butterfly holds a special place in the hearts of people around the world. For many, the sight of a Monarch butterfly symbolizes transformation and change. In many cultures, the butterfly represents hope, renewal, and freedom. For the people of Mexico, the arrival of the Monarchs each year is a significant event, deeply embedded in the country's cultural and ecological identity.

In addition to their cultural significance, Monarchs have become a symbol for environmental conservation. Various non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and governments have worked together to protect Monarch habitats, not only for the butterflies but also for the many species that share their environment. The Monarch's dramatic migration has captured the imagination of people worldwide, inspiring conservation efforts, educational programs, and even works of art.

As beautiful and resilient as the Monarch butterfly is, its future is uncertain. Monarch populations have seen significant declines in recent years due to habitat loss, climate change, and the widespread use of pesticides. However, many organizations and individuals are taking steps to protect the Monarch butterfly. By planting milkweed, reducing pesticide use, and preserving the forests in Mexico, we can help ensure that future generations will continue to witness the awe-inspiring migration of this incredible insect.

Efforts to raise awareness about the importance of Monarch butterflies and their role in ecosystems are crucial. As we learn more about these creatures and their complex life cycle, we gain a better understanding of the delicate balance in nature and how every species, no matter how small, plays an important role in maintaining the health of our planet.

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The Monarch butterfly is not just an insect; it is a symbol of resilience, migration, and transformation. Its incredible journey and the role it plays in the ecosystem highlight the beauty of nature and the importance of protecting it. As we work to conserve the Monarch and other pollinators, we help maintain the delicate balance that supports life on Earth.

1: Where d	o Monarch butterflies travel each year during their migration?
2: What is	the main food source for Monarch caterpillars?
	g does the metamorphosis process take for a Monarch caterpilla butterfly?
14: Why is t	he Monarch butterfly migration considered a mystery?
5: What en	vironmental factors help guide the Monarch's migration?

6: How does t	the Monarch butterfly benefit ecosystems?
27: What has c	aused the decline in Monarch butterfly populations?
Q8: What role d	loes the Monarch butterfly play in pollination?
Q9: How do peo year?	ople in Mexico view the arrival of Monarch butterflies each
Q10: What can habitats?	people do to help protect Monarch butterflies and their
habitats?	

### 🕯 Vocabulary Quiz

### Q1: What does the word "metamorphosis" mean?

- A. A type of tree
- **B.** The process of transformation
- C. The migration of animals
- D. A type of food

### Q2: What is the meaning of the word "larvae"?

- A. Adult butterfly
- B. The caterpillar stage of an insect
- C. A type of plant

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D. A migratory bird

### Q3: What does the word "resilience" refer to?

- A. The ability to stay in one place
- B. The ability to adapt and recover from challenges
- C. The ability to find food
- D. The process of flying

### Q4: What is the meaning of "pollination"?

- A. The process of attracting animals
- B. The process by which plants reproduce with the help of insects
- **C.** The migration of butterflies
- **D.** The process of transformation

### Q5: What does "habitat" mean?

- A. A place where an animal or plant lives
- B. The food a species eats
- C. A species of bird
- D. A place where butterflies rest



## **Right Answers**



Q1: Where do Mor	narch butterflies travel each year during their migrat
They travel to th	ne forests in Mexico.
Q2: What is the m	nain food source for Monarch caterpillars?
Milkweed.	
Q3: How long doe to become a butt	es the metamorphosis process take for a Monarch ca terfly?
About 10 days, o	depending on environmental conditions.
Q4: Why is the Mo	onarch butterfly migration considered a mystery?
Because Monard	chs do not learn the migration route from their par
instead, it is pas	ssed down through generations.
Q5: What enviror	nmental factors help guide the Monarch's migration?
The Earth's mag	netic field, the position of the sun, and environme
cues.	
Q6: How does the	e Monarch butterfly benefit ecosystems?
They are key pol	llinators, helping plants, especially milkweed, repr
Q7: What has cau	used the decline in Monarch butterfly populations?
Habitat loss, clir	mate change, and the widespread use of pesticide
08: What role do	es the Monarch butterfly play in pollination?
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Q9: How do people in Mexico view the arrival of Monarch butterflies each	1
year?	

The arrival of Monarch butterflies is a significant cultural and ecological event in Mexico.

Q10: What can people do to help protect Monarch butterflies and their habitats?

Plant milkweed, reduce pesticide use, and preserve their wintering grounds in Mexico.

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- B. The process of transformation
- C. The migration of animals
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Answer: B. The process of transformation

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Answer: B. The caterpillar stage of an insect

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### Q4: What is the meaning of "pollination"?

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Answer: **B.** The process by which plants reproduce with the help of insects

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- B. The food a species eats
- C. A species of bird

D. A place where butterflies rest

Answer: A. A place where an animal or plant lives.