

The Remarkable Journey of Monarch Butterflies

Monarch butterflies, known for their distinctive orange and black wings, undertake one of the most incredible migratory journeys in the animal kingdom. Every year, millions of these butterflies travel thousands of miles from North America to Central Mexico to escape the cold winter.

The journey is not simple. Along the way, monarchs face numerous challenges, including extreme weather conditions, predators, and the scarcity of food sources. Despite these obstacles, they navigate using the sun and Earth's magnetic field, demonstrating an innate sense of direction.

Interestingly, the monarchs that migrate to Mexico are not the same ones that return to North America. It's usually their offspring that make the return journey. This means that these young butterflies, having never made the trip before, find their way to a location that their ancestors left months ago—a mystery that has long puzzled scientists.

Exercise: Summary Completion

Complete the summary below using words from the passage.

Monarch butterflies, recognizable by their unique **1** colors, embark on a massive migration annually from North America to **2** to avoid the cold. Their route is fraught with **3** like adverse weather and lack of food. Astonishingly, these creatures have an inbuilt sense of direction, relying on the **4** and the planet's magnetic properties for navigation. Another fascinating fact is that the butterflies returning to North America are not the same as the ones that left; it's their **5** who undertake the return.