

What Migrates with Monarchs?

Grade 6 - Science

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☆ Learning Goals (WALT)

- We are learning to identify cause-and-effect relationships in a scientific phenomenon.
- We are learning to weigh evidence carefully before drawing a conclusion (Critical Thinking).

☑ Success Criteria

- I can name one cause and one effect from the reading.
- I can use evidence from the text to support my thinking.
- I can explain why my reasoning makes sense.

Academic Vocabulary

- Migration - the seasonal movement of animals from one region to another.
- Habitat - the natural environment where an organism lives.
- Phenology - the study of seasonal changes in plants and animals.
- Generation - a single step in a line of descent.

🌐 Career Connection

Wildlife biologists, conservation officers, and park rangers all use cause-and-effect reasoning every day. When ecosystems shift, their job is to ask why before they act - which is exactly what scientific thinking trains.

Overview

Students read a short text about the monarch butterfly's multi-generational migration, then identify causes and effects from the reading using evidence. The skill is weighing evidence before locking in an answer - not guessing.

Three-Part Lesson

MINDS ON (8 MIN)

Show a 60-second clip of a monarch swarm. Pair-share: name one thing you noticed and one thing you wondered. Capture 3-4 wonderings on the board.

ACTION (30 MIN)

Students read the monarch passage with a partner. They highlight one cause in one colour, one effect in another. Then they discuss: which one feels most certain to them, and which one feels like a guess? Why?

CONSOLIDATION (7 MIN)

Quick whip-around: each student names one cause and one effect, and rates their confidence 1-4. The numbers go on the board and the class looks for patterns - where did most people feel certain? Where did most people guess?

Differentiation

- Scaffolded: Provide a graphic organiser pre-labelled CAUSE -> EFFECT with sentence frames.
- Standard: As written.
- Extension: Students propose a second possible cause for one effect and weigh which is more likely.

Report Card Language

- Critical Thinking (Level 3): Identifies causes and effects with supporting evidence; can articulate the reasoning behind their conclusions.

✓ Exit Ticket

1. Name one cause of monarch migration.

2. How confident are you (1-4)? Why?
