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# NEWS<sup>®</sup>

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**2**

# Butterflies Are Back!



In the spring, the sky fills up with butterflies. One of these butterflies took an extra-long trip. Can you guess which one?



My name \_\_\_\_\_



Monarch butterflies huddle together on a tree. The tree stretches up into the sky!

# Monarchs on the Move

## As You Read

Think about how butterflies can change as they migrate.

Can you find the monarch butterfly on the cover?

Monarch butterflies make an amazing trip every year!

It's a beautiful, sunny summer day. You look up into the sky. You observe a bright-orange-and-black monarch butterfly fluttering by. You turn around and see another—and another!

Soon, the sky is full of monarchs. Where did these beautiful butterflies come from?

## Too Cold for Butterflies

To answer that question, we need to go back in time. The butterflies' story started almost a whole year ago.

Last autumn, the weather started getting colder, and the monarch butterflies couldn't stick around in the

cold weather. They needed to go somewhere warmer.



So they **migrated**, traveling thousands of miles to a new home.

## Winter in a Tree

The butterflies flew **south**, all the way to Mexico. There, they landed on tree trunks where they could finally rest!

These trees make a perfect winter home for monarch butterflies.

## Flying North

Winter turned to spring and the weather got warmer back up north. It was time to **migrate** again!

The monarchs flew back north. This time, they stopped along the way and laid their eggs on milkweed plants.



Those eggs hatched into **caterpillars**, and the caterpillars were hungry. They munched on the milkweed plants. They ate and ate!

Soon, they went through a **metamorphosis**. They grew and changed until they were adult butterflies and those adults flew north.

They flew and flew, laying eggs on milkweed plants on their journey. Those eggs hatched and turned into butterflies. This happened over and over again.

Spring turned to summer. Finally, some adult butterflies made it to the northern parts of the United States. They had reached their summer home at last!

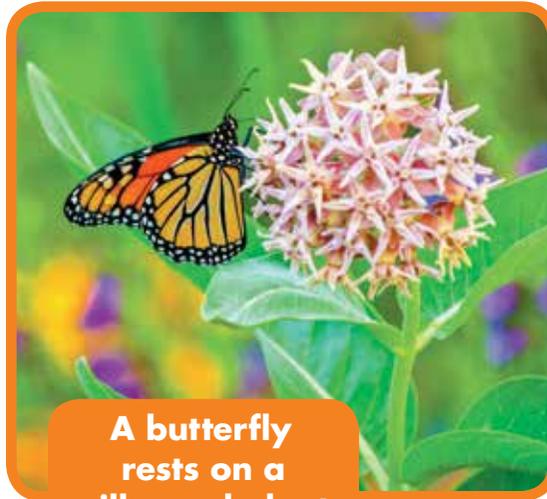
## Summer Vacation

And now that brings us back to those butterflies filling up the sky. Those butterflies will stick around all summer, resting on colorful flowers and fluttering by on the warm summer breezes.



They will enjoy the summer sun until the weather starts to get cold in the autumn. Then they will need to migrate south and start the whole big trip all over again!

—by Blair Rainsford



A butterfly rests on a milkweed plant.

# Monarch Migration

This map shows some of the different paths monarch butterflies take when they migrate north and south.

