

Name _____

Wings Across Continents: The Marvel of Butterfly Migration

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Scientists study butterfly migration using a variety of techniques, including tagging butterflies with tiny identification tags, tracking their movements using radio telemetry, and conducting citizen science projects to monitor butterfly sightings.
2. Challenges that butterflies may face during migration include adverse weather conditions, predation, habitat loss, and barriers such as mountains and bodies of water. They overcome these challenges through adaptations such as timing their flights to coincide with favorable weather conditions and using visual landmarks to navigate.
3. As a monarch butterfly embarking on a long-distance migration, you would first gather with millions of other butterflies and begin your journey southward from North America. Along the way, you might encounter storms, predators, and obstacles such as mountains and rivers. Despite these challenges, you would use your innate navigation abilities and environmental cues to guide you to your overwintering sites in central Mexico.
4. Butterfly migration is significant for conservation and ecosystem health because it helps maintain genetic diversity, promote pollination, and support food webs. By protecting butterfly habitats and migration routes, we can ensure the survival of these important pollinators and the ecosystems they inhabit.

