

Scientific Observation Journal

By: Sophia (Age 9)

Date: July 15, 2024
Time: 3:30 PM Location: Thompson Creek Trail Temperature: 78°F Weather: Sunny, light breeze

[DRAWING SPACE: Detailed butterfly drawing with accurate proportions and anatomical features labeled: proboscis, antennae, compound eyes, thorax, abdomen, forewings, hindwings. Colors show accurate patterns of a Monarch butterfly with orange wings and black veining.]

Monarch Butterfly Observations

I observed three different butterflies today and compared them:

Feature	Monarch	Swallowtail	Small White
Size	3.5-4 inches	4-5 inches	1.5 inches
Color	Orange with black lines	Yellow with black stripes	White with gray spots
Flight pattern	Floating, slow	Fast, direct	Fluttery, bouncy
Plants visited	Milkweed	Thistle	Cabbage plants

The Monarch butterfly stayed on the milkweed plants the longest. It was feeding on the flowers using its proboscis, which uncurls like a straw.

Research Information:

From my butterfly book, I learned that Monarch butterflies migrate to Mexico every winter. They can travel up to 3,000 miles! They need milkweed plants to lay their eggs because the caterpillars only eat milkweed.

Questions:

- How do Monarchs know which direction to fly during migration?
- How many eggs does a female Monarch butterfly lay?
- Why don't birds eat Monarch butterflies?
- How do butterflies survive rainstorms?

I want to check our milkweed plants for Monarch caterpillars tomorrow.