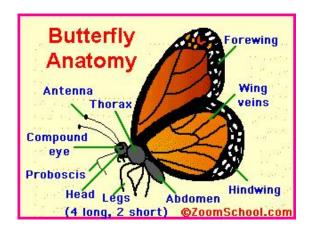
About Monarchs



- 0. About Monarchs Story Preface
- 1. Stages of a Monarch Butterfly's Life
- 2. The Monarch's Journey Begins
- 3. The Migration of Monarch Butterflies

4. About Monarchs

- 5. What is Unusual About a Monarch?
- 6. Facts about Butterflies
- 7. Butterfly Vocabulary
- 8. Ways to Help Save Monarchs
- 9. What is the Difference between a Moth and a Butterfly?



How do we know a Monarch butterfly when we see one? Or—here's a harder question—how can we tell the difference between a male and female Monarch?

Male and female Monarchs are easily distinguishable. Males have a black spot—see <u>photos on this page</u>—on a vein on each hindwing that females do not have. These spots are made of specialized scales which produce a chemical used during courtship in many species of butterflies and moths (although such a chemical does not seem to be important in Monarch courtship).

The ends of the abdomens are also different in males and females, and females often look darker than males and have wider veins on their wings.

No growth occurs in the adult stage, but Monarchs need to obtain nourishment to maintain their body and fuel it for flight. Nectar from flowers, which is about 20% sugar, provides most of their adult food. They use their vision to find flowers, but once they land on a potential food source, they use taste receptors on their feet to find the nectar.

(Thanks to Dr. Karen Oberhauser for the information in this chapter.)

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/About-Monarchs-The-Ultimate-Relay-Race-The-Monarch-Butterfly-Story

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/About-Monarchs-The-Ultimate-Relay-Race-The-Ultimate-Relay-Race-The-Ultimate-Relay-Race-The-Ultimate-Relay-Race-The-Ultimate-Relay-Race-The-Ultimate-Relay-Race-The-Ultimate-Relay-Race-The-Ultimate-Relay-Race-The-Ultimate-Relay-Race-The-Ultimate-Relay-Race-The-Ultimate-Race-The-Ul

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