

## What Does a Monarch Butterfly Eat and Drink?

### *Scientific Background*

Monarch butterflies sip liquid food using a tube-like structure called a proboscis. Monarchs drink nectar from flowers and sometimes sip sweet juices from fruit. When Monarchs feed, they may pollinate, or fertilize flowers they visit.

### *Vocabulary*

- fertilize
- pollen
- proboscis
- nectar
- pollinate

*Vocabulary definitions can be found in the **Backyard Bugs** Glossary.*

### *Thinking Question*

What would a Monarch butterfly do if there were no flowers nearby? What other types of food or liquid might a hungry Monarch eat?

### *Exploratory and Extension Activities*

***Additional Exploratory and Extension activities are available in the Backyard Bugs Teacher's Guide.***

### **Monarch Butterflies**

Using black construction paper cut out the shape of the Monarch butterfly. Prepare one butterfly for each student. Have black pipe cleaners available for each student to use to make a proboscis and two antennae for their butterflies. Provide scraps of orange and white paper and glue sticks for students to create a collage of the wing pattern. Use black markers to add details to the wings.

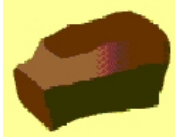



### **A Day in the Life of a Monarch Butterfly**

Have students write about a day in the life of the Monarch butterfly. Tell students to imagine that they are a Monarch butterfly and that they have the ability to keep a journal about their lives and experiences as butterfly. Students should write about what a day in their lives is like.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

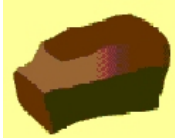



## What does a Monarch Butterfly Eat and Drink?



What does a Monarch butterfly eat and drink? Check Yes or No for each type of food.				
	Chocolate 	Nectar from Blue Flowers 	Nectar from Milkweed Flowers 	Grape Juice 
Yes				
No				

**Answer Key**  
**What does a Monarch Butterfly Eat and Drink?**



<b>What does a Monarch butterfly eat and drink?</b> <b>Check Yes or No for each type of food.</b>				
	<b>Chocolate</b> 	<b>Nectar from Blue Flowers</b> 	<b>Nectar from Milkweed Flowers</b> 	<b>Grape Juice</b> 
<b>Yes</b>		✓	✓	✓
<b>No</b>	✓			