

Aiden Wang

Beautiful Butterflies

When he was in first grade, Aiden Wang's class hatched Monarch butterflies. The class watched small caterpillars hatch from eggs. The caterpillars ate leaves. They grew and grew. Then, the caterpillars hung upside down. They formed hard shells around their bodies. The shell is called a **chrysalis**. The class waited for the hard shells to crack open. When they did, the kids were amazed! The caterpillars were gone. Beautiful orange and black butterflies came out. Aiden loved watching the butterflies flutter off when they were let go.

Aiden wanted to know more about the butterflies. He did some research. He learned that Monarch caterpillars eat the leaves of milkweed plants. He also found out that Monarch butterflies are in trouble. In the United States, **native** milkweed plants are dying from weed killer. There isn't enough milkweed to feed the caterpillars. Aiden decided he wanted to help.

Helping the Monarchs

Aiden got some milkweed seeds. He planted them in pots and put them outside. He watered the plants and they grew. For the first two years, Aiden did not find any butterfly eggs on his milkweed plants. But he kept caring for the plants. He didn't give up. The third year, he finally found some Monarch eggs. He was ready to help the butterflies grow. Here is what he did:

- First, he clipped off the section of the leaf where the **eggs** were. He put the eggs inside in a plastic box. This helped the eggs stay safe from hard rain and other insects.
- Then, when the **caterpillars** hatched, Aiden gave them lots of milkweed leaves to eat. They grew quickly!
- He waited until each caterpillar formed a **chrysalis**. He put the chrysalises into a net cage.
- He waited some more. The hard shells cracked open. Wet **butterflies** came out. They needed about an hour for their wings to dry. Then, they could fly.



Aiden Wang *(cont.)*

Butterflies Need Nectar

Butterflies get their food from flowers. They sip **nectar** from flowers. Aiden took his 25 butterflies to an **organic** farm. The farmer didn't use any weed killers. Aiden's butterflies would be safe.

Butterflies Need Our Help

Monarch butterflies **migrate** every year. They fly from a cold place to a warm place. They start in the northern United States and Canada. They travel to California and Mexico. They fly over 2,000 miles.

Over one million Monarchs made the trip 10 years ago. Now, the numbers are much smaller. Monarch butterflies need healthy milkweed plants to lay their eggs on. Monarch caterpillars need to eat milkweed leaves. They cannot grow without them. Aiden knows his work is helping. He explains:

"The **survival** rate for Monarch butterfly eggs in the wild is 5 to 10 percent. When raised indoors, their survival rate shoots up to 95 percent."

He keeps growing milkweed plants. Every year, he saves more and more caterpillars. Almost all of his butterflies live. Aiden let over 400 Monarch butterflies go last year. He helped 400 caterpillars change into butterflies!

Aiden wants people to plant milkweed and other flowering plants for the butterflies.

Help Native Species

Many wild plants and animals need our help. They are dying because of problems caused by people. How can we help? We need to do our part to help stop climate change, **pollution**, and habitat loss.

- **Clean Up:** Pick up your trash. Animals can get caught in things like six-pack rings. They eat small bits of plastic that make them sick. Always make sure you put your trash where it won't end up on the ground or in the water.
- **Keep It Natural:** Many people use chemicals to kill pests and to grow plants quickly. Don't use chemicals near plants or animals.
- **Plant Native Plants:** Native plants are plants that have always grown where you live. They did not come from far away. Planting native plants helps provide food and shelter for native animals.



Unit 2

Name: _____

Date: _____

Key Ideas and Details

Directions: Answer the questions below about Aiden Wang. Use complete sentences.

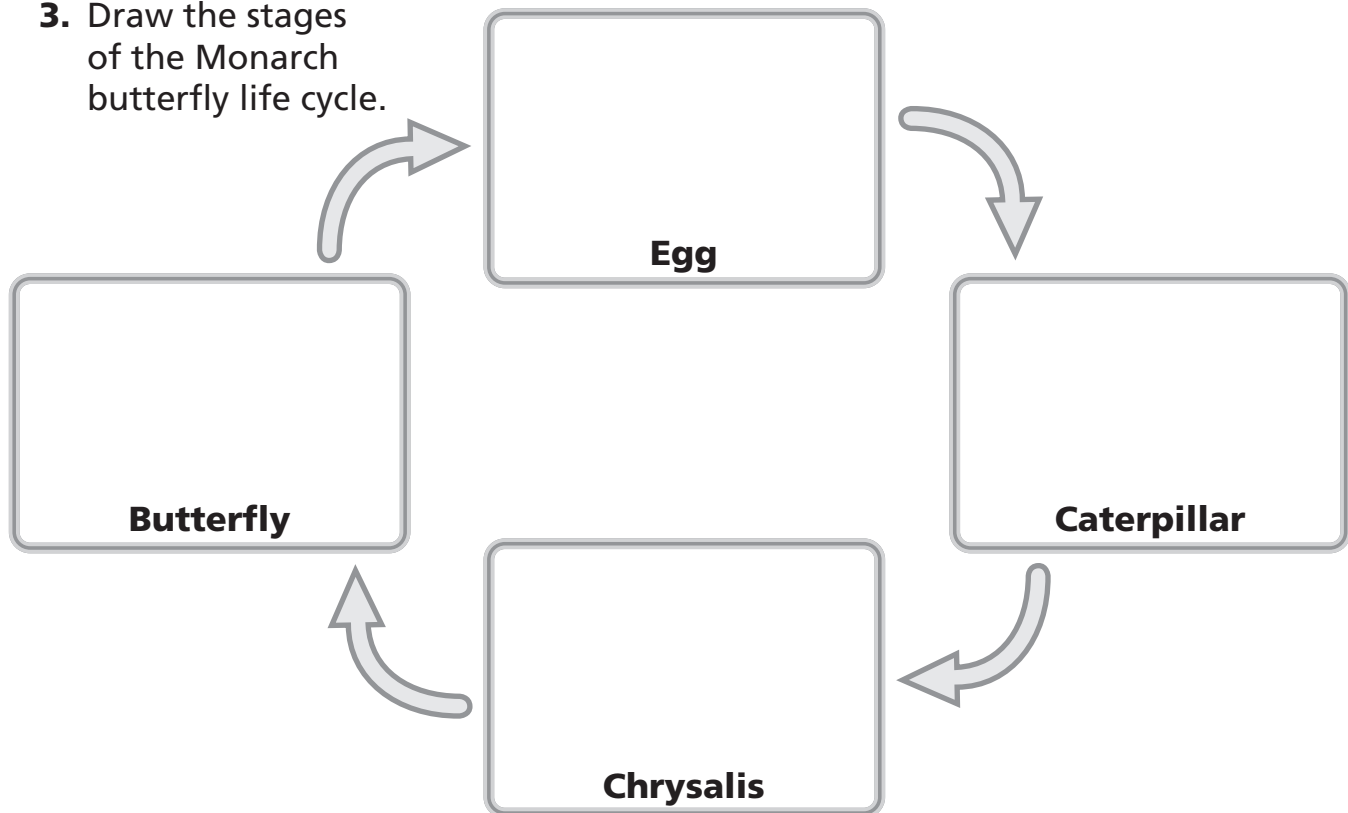
1. Who or what is this text mainly about? Name two details that tell you about the main idea.

Detail 1: _____

Detail 2: _____

2. How does Aiden Wang help Monarch butterflies?

3. Draw the stages of the Monarch butterfly life cycle.



Name: _____

Date: _____

Craft and Structure

Directions: Answer the questions below. Use complete sentences.

- 1. What does *migrate* mean? Use the other words and sentences in the text to help you understand it.

- 2. Why do you think the author included the sidebar about helping *native* species?

- 3. Choose one word from the text that you think is important to understanding Aiden’s story. Define the word, and explain its importance to the story.

Word: _____

Definition: _____

Importance to the story: _____



Unit 2

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Date: _____

Integration of Knowledge and Meaning

Directions: Answer the questions below. Use complete sentences.

1. The text says, "Aiden wants people to plant milkweed and other flowering plants for the butterflies." How would this help the butterflies?

2. Why do you think it is important to protect native plants and animals?

3. Name two animals and two plants that are *native* to your area.

Animals _____ _____

Plants _____ _____

4. Name a plant and an animal that are *not native* to your area.

Animal _____ **Plant** _____

Name: _____

Date: _____

Group Discussion



Brainstorming: Think about the animals that live near your home.

⌘ What native animals live near you?

⌘ What problems do they face?

⌘ What do they need?

⌘ How could you find out more?

Taking Action

Directions: Use this graphic organizer to do research about an animal.

What is the problem?	What is being done?
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
What can I do to help?	Who might help me?
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

