

KWL chart example: monarch butterflies (Grade 2-3 science)

Illustrative class chart. The K column keeps students' first ideas, including one that turned out to be wrong; the L column corrects it.

K: What I Know	W: What I Want to know	L: What I Learned
Monarchs are orange and black. They start as caterpillars. They fly south for winter. I think the same butterfly flies there and back.	What do monarch caterpillars eat? How far do they fly? Why don't birds eat them? How long does a monarch live?	A monarch has four life stages: egg, larva (caterpillar), pupa (chrysalis) and adult. Monarch caterpillars eat only milkweed leaves. Milkweed makes many monarchs taste bad to birds. Eastern monarchs fly to forests in central Mexico for the winter. Correction: no single butterfly makes the whole round trip. The trip back north takes several generations.

Summary

Monarchs change through four stages. Their caterpillars need milkweed, which also protects them from many birds. In fall, eastern monarchs fly to central Mexico, and it takes several generations to return north in spring.