# Research Writing

Grade 3

Name _____ Date _____

**Remember:** A **research report** uses facts from more than one source. Read, take **notes**, then write the facts in **your own words**.

**Own words test:** cover the source, look at your note, and say the fact out loud. Then write what you said.

## Source 1: The Life of a Monarch



A monarch butterfly starts life as a tiny egg on a milkweed leaf. A caterpillar hatches and eats only milkweed. After about two weeks, it makes a green case called a chrysalis. Inside, it changes into a butterfly.

Milkweed has a bitter juice. When the caterpillar eats it, the monarch tastes bad to birds. Its bright orange and black wings warn birds to stay away.

## Source 2: The Long Trip

Every fall, millions of monarchs from Canada and the United States fly south. Some travel more than 4,000 kilometres (about 2,500 miles) to mountain forests in Mexico. There, they cluster on fir trees to stay safe through the winter. In spring, they fly north again, and their great-grandchildren finish the trip home.

### 1. Which note is in your own words?

Circle the best note.

**1. Source sentence: "A caterpillar hatches and eats only milkweed." Which is the best note?**

(a) A caterpillar hatches and eats only milkweed.
(b) I like caterpillars.
(c) caterpillars eat just milkweed

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## 2. Take notes from both sources

Write short notes under each heading. Use both sources.

**Life cycle**

**Staying safe**

**Migration**

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## 3. Write your report

Use your notes, not the sources.

Write a short report called **Amazing Monarchs**. Write one paragraph for the life cycle and one for the long trip.

**Check:** ☐ Title ☐ Facts from both sources ☐ Own words ☐ Two paragraphs ☐ Closing sentence

# Answer Key

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## 1. Which note is in your own words?

1. **Source sentence: "A caterpillar hatches and eats only milkweed." Which is the best note?**
   - (a) A caterpillar hatches and eats only milkweed.
   - (b) I like caterpillars.
   - (c) **caterpillars eat just milkweed**

## 2. Take notes from both sources

**Life cycle**

egg on milkweed, caterpillar eats only milkweed, chrysalis, butterfly

**Staying safe**

milkweed makes them taste bad; orange and black warn birds

**Migration**

fly south in fall, over 4,000 km to Mexico; cluster on fir trees; great-grandchildren return north

# Model Answer

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## 3. Write your report

*A model answer to share with students. Their writing will be different.*

Monarch butterflies have an amazing life. A monarch starts as a tiny egg on a milkweed leaf. The caterpillar eats only milkweed, and the bitter juice makes it taste bad to birds. After about two weeks, it makes a chrysalis and turns into an orange and black butterfly.

Every fall, millions of monarchs fly south to Mexico. Some fly more than 4,000 kilometres. They spend the winter clustered on fir trees, then head north in spring. It takes their great-grandchildren to finish the trip home. Monarchs are small, but they are mighty travellers.