Reading Passage and Question Set

Read the passage below. Use the information from the text to answer the questions that follow.

* Required

1. Email address *

2. Name *
Monarch Migration

You have probably seen monarch butterflies floating on the breeze with their delicate little wings, but did you know that those same wings carry monarch butterflies thousands of miles? Every year as temperatures drop, these regal orange insects make their way south to Mexico or Southern California to survive the winter.

Each October as signs of fall creep in, the cooler temperatures, fewer hours of daylight, and dwindling food supply signal to the monarch butterflies that it’s time to go. The monarchs head south riding on air currents and join other groups of monarchs along the way. The butterflies often follow a course where flowers are abundant and the weather conditions are desirable. The butterflies travel by day and roost together at night in trees to stay warm. Thousands of butterflies have been spotted on just a few trees, covering them so completely that the trees look orangish-brown rather than green!

A misconception that some people have about monarch migration is that the same butterflies that go south are the same butterflies that return all the way north in the spring. In reality, most monarchs live approximately 2-6 weeks as an adult, so it is rare for a single butterfly to make the entire trip completely. The butterflies have enough time to lay eggs and make only a portion of the trip back north in the spring before they pass on and their offspring pick up where they left off.

Monarchs are certainly admirable critters for their dedication to journeying miles upon miles for the survival of their species. If you are ever lucky enough to see migrating monarchs, wish them luck!

Fun Fact: Depending on where monarchs start from, their migration journey could be up to 3,000 miles long!
3. 1. Which of these is not a signal to monarchs that it is time to migrate? *

Mark only one oval.

☐ A) The water freezes in the north.
☐ B) There is less daylight in the fall.
☐ C) The food supply dwindles in the north.
☐ D) The temperatures get too low in the north.

4. 2. Which statement from the passage is an opinion? *

Mark only one oval.

☐ A) Monarch butterflies lay eggs.
☐ B) Monarchs are admirable critters.
☐ C) The monarchs fly during the day and rest at night.
☐ D) Monarchs migrate to Mexico or Southern California for the winter.

5. 3. What inference can be made based on information in the passage? *

Mark only one oval.

☐ A) Monarchs know to migrate south by instinct.
☐ B) Monarchs are scared of the dark, so they don’t migrate at night.
☐ C) Monarchs prefer to be alone and many make the trip south independently.
☐ D) The monarchs that are over a year old lead younger butterflies as they migrate.
6. What does the word misconception mean in this sentence? “A misconception that some people have about monarch migration is that the same butterflies that go south are the same butterflies that return all the way north in the spring.” *

Mark only one oval.

☐ A) Hope
☐ B) Worry
☐ C) Frustration
☐ D) False thought

7. Which use of the passage would best match the author’s purpose for writing the passage? *

Mark only one oval.

☐ A) A teacher reads the passage to a class of preschoolers to make them laugh.
☐ B) A student uses facts from the passage to persuade her parents to buy her a butterfly net.
☐ C) A teacher uses information from the passage to persuade students not to harm butterflies.
☐ D) A student uses information from the passage to write an informational essay about monarch butterflies.

8. According to the text, how long can the monarch’s migration journey be? (Check Fun Fact) *
9. Summarize the article in 3-4 sentences. *

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