

# Monarch Watch

*The students were afforded an opportunity to conduct a long-term investigation of a species demonstrating their adaptations, or lack thereof, to an ever-changing environment. The delicate balances crucial to the monarch butterflies' survival and migration demonstrated to the students man's great responsibilities as stewards of his environment.*

## Curriculum/State Standard

Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills, objectives;

6.1 The student conducts field and laboratory investigations using safe, environmentally appropriate, and ethical practices.

6.12 The student knows that the responses of organisms are caused by internal or external stimuli.

## Overview

The class enrolled in Monarch Watch an organization that tracks the population and year round migration of the monarch butterfly ([www.monarchwatch.org](http://www.monarchwatch.org)). We ordered seeds that were ideal for a butterfly garden and planted them to attract butterflies. We ordered and raised monarch butterflies though their life cycle in the classroom, and then we tagged and released them, hoping to track their migration. We tagged monarchs in the wild and reported them to the monarch watch database.

## Objectives

- The student will plan an investigation of the migratory habits of the monarch butterfly that employs safe, environmentally appropriate, and ethical practices.
- The student will capture, examine, and determine the gender, tag for tracking the monarch butterfly.
- The student will plan and grow a garden, populated by plant species favored by monarch butterflies.
- The student will make inputs to and search the Monarch Watch database.
- The student will maintain a journal of all pertinent activities.

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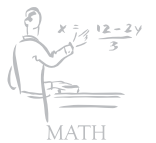
GRADE LEVEL



ARTS



LANGUAGE



MATH

# Misc

MISCELLANEOUS



SCIENCE



HISTORY



SOCIAL STUDIES

# 1

YEAR

# \$130

TOTAL BUDGET

## *“Monarch Watch” project continued...*

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### **Materials**

Monarch Watch Membership and Tagging Kit, Monarch Watch butterfly rearing kit w/larvae, Monarch Watch Butterfly Garden Kit, butterfly nets, garden plot, student journals

### **Readiness Activity**

The students will research the butterflies of or migrating through North America, later narrowing the research to monarch butterflies.

### **Strategies/Activities**

- Research the Web site, Butterflies of North America
- Focus search to monarch butterflies
- Research and join Monarch Watch, ordering a class membership, tagging kits, and rearing kit. (Order larvae for delivery five weeks prior to desired release date.)

### **Culminating Activity**

In the spring, the students will search the Monarch Watch database for reports about the wild specimens release during the fall migration to Mexico and tag and release the classroom reared monarchs into the school's butterfly garden.

### **Evaluation**

Lab rubrics and journals were graded by the teacher.