

“Got a Moment” (#5) **Monarch Butterflies**



Got a Moment? – Let’s talk about Monarch Butterflies and their special abilities!

Butterflies are beautiful creatures aren’t they! There are many types of butterflies that live in various places around the world. Butterflies, like bees help to pollinate flowers, so they’re not just pretty, they are useful as well.

The birth process of a butterfly is something that in itself gives us cause to pause and glorify God for such a wonderful procedure. Butterflies, as you know, start out as caterpillars and don’t look anything like a butterfly. Their whole purpose during this stage of their lives is to eat and grow, eat and grow. That doesn’t sound too bad does it? When the caterpillar has eaten and grown the necessary amount it begins the process of producing its own cocoon. How does it know to do this? These kind of instinctive actions by insects and animals have no explanation except that they are created with these instincts and abilities by God.

After the butterfly surrounds itself with the cocoon, it goes into the 2nd phase of its life which is called the “Chrysalis” stage. Monarch butterflies stay in the “Chrysalis” stage within the cocoon for __ days. During this time they dissolve much of their caterpillar body and reuse the cells to build wings and the other essential parts needed to live as a butterfly. Pretty neat huh? There’s no other butterfly or any earthly being in there with them building their new body. Only God and the caterpillar, now a chrysalis are inside there, building the body of a beautiful butterfly.

When the process is complete the newly formed butterfly breaks out of the cocoon and is ready to fly away, entering its new life phase as a beautiful butterfly.

Monarch butterflies have a unique relationship with a plant called the “milkweed”. Monarchs only use milkweed plants to lay their eggs and to eat up as food when they’re a young caterpillar. After an adult Monarch lays its eggs on a milkweed plant, it soon dies, having lived out its life purpose.

In the spring as milkweed plants begin to grow in Mexico and the southern parts of the United States, Monarchs begin to migrate from Mexico, north into the U.S. As they lay their eggs, that generation dies off. The new generation

becomes butterflies within 6-8 weeks and they migrate further north and lay their eggs on milkweed plants now growing further north as summer nears. After laying their eggs this generation dies. The new generation becomes butterflies and migrates further north yet, into the summer months. By the time summer nears an end the 3rd or 4th generation of Monarchs from those that left Mexico in the early spring are now living in the northern U.S. and in parts of Canada.

Are you ready for the really amazing thing? The generation of Monarch Butterflies now living in the north regions by early fall begin their migration back to the south for the winter. All the other generations each lived only 6-8 weeks and then died. This generation will live for about 8 months and will somehow migrate back to the same forests of trees in Central Mexico that they have never been to, but from where their great-great grandparents came from. Some of them will fly over 1500 miles and some will even fly across the Gulf of Mexico to reach their destination. Each winter millions of Monarchs load the branches of these same trees in Mexico, hibernating there until the next spring when the whole process will begin all over again. Who has taught the Monarch Butterfly to do such an amazing thing and who causes the 4th generation to live 10xs longer than the previous 3 generations? A glorious and mighty God showed off a bit when He made these beautiful creatures!

That's all for this time! Goodbye and God bless you!

*For video only (no audio) – For further information see DVD
“The Monarch Butterfly”*

Discussion Questions:

- (1) What explanations can you think of to explain how butterflies can dissolve their caterpillar cells and remake them into butterfly cells while in the chrysalis stage?
- (2) What explanations can you think of to explain the migration of the Monarch Butterfly?
- (3) What is revealed about the character of God through the Monarch Butterfly?

Pray Together as a Family! (Thank God for all the wonderful creatures all around us!)