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Butterflies and moths

You must be fascinated by us—without doubt, the most beautiful of insects! Want to know how we come to have those amazing, colourful patterns on our wings—and why they can help us survive? Or how we undergo that miraculous change from caterpillars into our magnificent selves? Then read on ...

Where does a monarch fly to in winter?

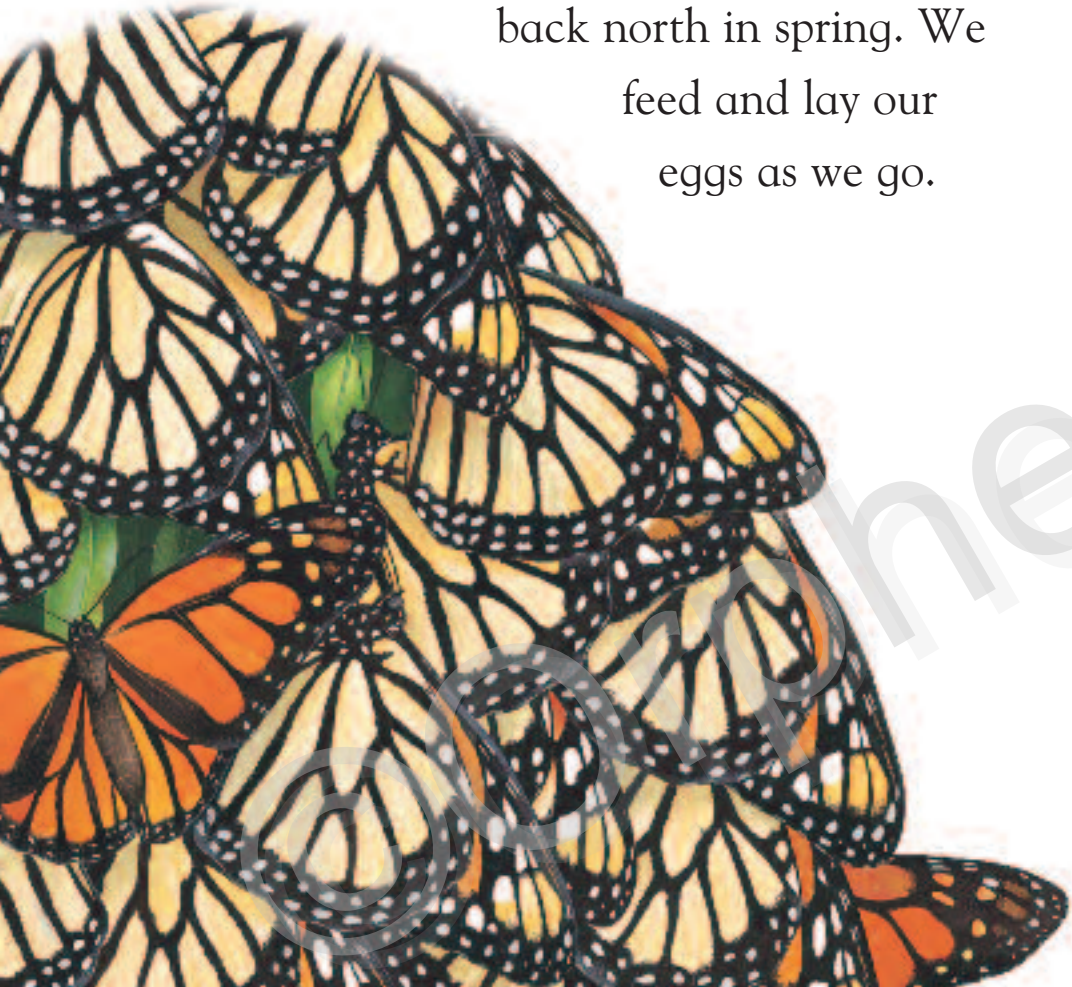
We monarch butterflies fly thousands of kilometres south for the winter, from our summer homes in the USA and Canada to the mountain forests of Mexico.



This long journey is called a migration. About 100 million of us migrate south every year. We settle on tree trunks in our millions. It's quite a sight!



We rest over the winter on the trees,
huddling together for warmth. We
save our energy for the long flight
back north in spring. We
feed and lay our
eggs as we go.



Our caterpillars live on milkweed plants,
eating leaves, flowers and stems. Once
they have turned into butterflies, they fly
back home.

