



Kindergarten Science

Interdependent Relationships and Ecosystems: Monarch Butterflies and Ladybugs

Dear Families,

Here is what your child is learning in kindergarten, during the study of Interdependent Relationships and Ecosystems with some specific ways you can help. Look for additional newsletters for upcoming units.

Interdependent Relationships and Ecosystems: Monarch Butterflies and Ladybugs

Essential Questions:

- How are the needs of humans, plants and animals the same?
- How does the Monarch butterfly depend on milkweed?
- How can we help increase the number of Monarch butterflies?

In this unit students need to:

- Identify that Living things have specific needs in order to survive.
- Identify that in many cases, plants and animals depend on each other to meet their needs.
- Identify that there are ways to reduce the impact that humans have on the environment.
- Understand that all living things grow and change.

Key Vocabulary

Monarch butterfly- large, deep-orange butterfly, *Danaus plexippus*, with black and white markings

Nectar- the saccharine secretion of a plant, which attracts the insects or birds

Chrysalis - the hard-shelled pupa of a moth or butterfly

Habitat- the natural environment of an organism

Metamorphosis- a profound change in form from one stage to the next in the life of a living thing

Ways FAMILIES Can Help

- Read books about the life cycle of butterflies, as well as other living things
- Go on walks with your child to try and find Milkweed and Monarchs in the different stages during the fall
- Extend your child's knowledge by reading non-fiction books about other kinds of Butterflies