

Isabel's House of Butterflies Unit Study and Lapbook

Book by Tony Johnston

Unit study prepared by Jodi Small

Lapbook printables by Tara Mitchell and Ami

SOCIAL STUDIES

Geography – Mexico

Mexico is a large Spanish-speaking country in southern North America. Mexico's capital city is Mexico City. It is one of the largest cities in the world, with a population of about 20 million people. Mexico's climate varies from hot deserts, forests, tropical rainforests, and some chaparral (along the northwestern coastline). A chaparral is a shrubby coastal area that has hot dry summers and mild, cool, rainy winters. Mexico is divided into 32 states. You can discuss with your student various aspects of the Mexican culture (clothing, food, holidays, the language, etc.) The city of Michoacán is in the mountains of the Sierra Madre del Sur.

Check out our [Mexico Lapbook](#) at Homeschool Share.

Social Studies – Poverty

Isabel's family lived in a one-room house. They are dependent on the tourists for their money and food. They are able to grow vegetables and raise their pigs for some food. Imagine if your family lived in a house with only one room. The kitchen, living rooms, and bedrooms were all one space. You do not have money to go to the grocery store. The only things you have to eat are things you grow in your garden or animals you raise. You have little clothing, toys and books. There are people all over the world that live this way—even in the US, probably close to where you live. What kinds of things can you do to help those in poverty near your home? Decide as a family one thing you can do and carry it out.

→ Complete the Things We Can Do to Help Others simple fold and add it to your lapbook.

Social Studies – Tourism

A tourist is someone that does not live in the area they are visiting. Many tourists each year visit Michoacán to see the migration of the Monarch Butterfly. What places would you like to tour or visit around the country or the world?

→ Complete the I Would Like to Visit tab book and add it to your lapbook.

SCIENCE

Oyamel Trees

The Oyamel tree, or the Sacred Fir, is a fir tree that grows in the mountains of central and southern Mexico and western Guatemala. This medium-large evergreen coniferous tree has leaves that are needle-like and flat. The tree branches are used in religious festivals in Mexico, especially at Christmas. It is also the preferred tree for the Monarch Butterfly during the winter months.

Fir trees have a trunk, just like any other tree. They have long branches that start near the bottom of the trunk and gradually get shorter as they move up the trunk. They do not have leaves, but needles that stay green all year long. They have cones that grow to house the seeds for reproduction. Fir trees are popular as Christmas trees.

Experiment: Find a cone from a pine or fir tree in the cold months. The cones are closed up. Take it inside and set it near a fireplace, heater, or other warm place. The cones will open up and release the seeds.

If your student is interested in learning more about trees, check out our [Trees Lapbook](#) at Homeschool Share.

Pigs

Isabel's family raised pigs that they took to market to sell the meat. Pigs are omnivores; they eat both plants and meat. Pigs have large heads with a large snout. They have short legs and a short, curly tail. They do not have sweat glands, so in order to cool themselves, they lay in water or mud. They coat their skin in mud to use as a sunscreen.

Bacon, ham, pork and sausage come from pigs. Bacon is taken from the sides, belly or back of the pig. Arm, legs, or shoulders are used for ham. Lion, or the back, is

used for bacon, roasts, or chops. The ribs are used for spare ribs.

The skins of the pig can be used for leather. The “pigskin” refers to a football made from leather made from pig’s skin.

→ Complete This Little Piggy Flap Book.

Monarch Butterflies

The Monarch has the unmistakable colors of orange and black. The Viceroy is similar in color and size, but the Monarch has an extra black stripe on the hind wing. The Monarch eats only the milkweed plant. Eating the poisonous milkweed plant makes the Monarch butterfly poisonous to predators. Monarchs migrate from Canada to Mexico beginning in August until the first frost. They return north in the summer. God gave them a special instinct to know where to go as they migrate.

During its life cycle, the monarch goes through a metamorphosis, meaning a complete change.

1. Begins as an egg.
2. When the eggs hatch (after about 4 days), they become caterpillars. The caterpillars eat milkweed. The caterpillar stage lasts around 2 weeks.
3. Then the caterpillar hangs upside down in the shape of a “J”, molts, and spins a chrysalis. The chrysalis darkens a day before it emerges, and its orange and black wings can be seen.
4. The mature butterfly emerges after about two weeks.

Life Cycle Craft

Supplies needed: a paper plate divided into 4 sections, crayons, glue, rice, small shell pasta, small spiral pasta, bow tie pasta

1. In section one, have child draw a branch with a leaf on it. Glue the rice on the leaf to represent the egg stage.
2. In section two, have student draw a branch with a leaf on it. Glue the spiral pasta on the leaf to represent the larva (caterpillar) stage.
3. In section three, have student draw a branch with a leaf on it. Glue the shell pasta on the leaf to represent the pupa (chrysalis) stage.
4. In section four, have student draw another branch. Glue the bow-tie pasta on

the branch to represent the butterfly.

→ Complete the following printables for your lapbook:

Monarch Migration Map

Monarch Facts Butterfly Shape

Monarch Diet Simple Fold

Monarch Life Cycle Flap Book

[Butterfly Lapbook at Homeschool Share](#)

Drought

A drought is a period of time when no rain falls. What are some consequences of not having rain? These include dying crops, fires, dust storms, rivers and creeks drying up, etc.

→ Complete the Drought Flap Book.

MATH

Counting

Younger students can count the butterflies or the number of tortillas on a specific page.

Problem Solving

Older students can make up their own math problems.

If Isabel and her mom sold _____ tortillas in one day and sold them for \$ _____ each, how much money would they make each day? Each week?

If Isabel and her mom needed \$ _____ for the week and sold their tortillas for \$ _____, how many tortillas would they need to sell?

Symmetry

Look at a butterfly and notice the designs on each wing. The designs on the left wing are a mirror image of the designs on the right wing.

Paint one-half of a butterfly on cardstock. Fold your paper in half to create a mirror-image on the other wings. When dry, cut out your butterfly and add to lapbook.

LANGUAGE ARTS

Similes

A simile is a comparison of two or more things using the words “like” or “as”. There are numerous examples in this book:

‘...tree like a green church touching the sky...’

‘..voice splits stillness like a machete blow...’

‘...machete as bright as a slice of moon...’

‘...whispering like dry grass...’

Spanish Words

Use the Spanish Words Flap Book to record the meanings of the Spanish words used in the book.

Casa (kah-sah) – house

Mariposas (mah-ree-poh-sahs) – butterflies

Milagro (mee-lah-gro) – miracle

Tigre (tee-gray) – tiger

ART

Complimentary Colors

Use crayons or watercolors to make a color wheel.



Notice the colors blue and orange are opposite each other. This means they are complimentary colors. Primary colors are red, blue, and yellow. The secondary colors are colors that result in the mixing of two primary colors. Red and blue make purple, blue and yellow make green, and red and yellow make orange. In a color wheel, the secondary color and the primary color opposite of it are called complimentary. When complimentary colors are placed next to each other, they make the other appear brighter. The shadow of an object will contain the object's complimentary color. So, the shadow of a green apple will have some red in it.

Can your student find complimentary colors throughout the illustrations?

Paintings

Look at the paintings in the book. Notice the colors used. Notice the material the paintings are on. They look like burlap or some kind of cloth material. Notice the colors used in the daytime paintings and compare them to the colors used in the nighttime painting.

→ Complete Daytime Palette and Nighttime Palette Simple Fold Books

COOKING

Use the following recipe to make corn tortillas (from All Recipes.com)

INGREDIENTS

1 ½ c. all-purpose flour
1 ½ c. cornmeal
2 tsp. baking powder
¾ tsp. salt
1 c. warm water (110 degrees F/ 45 degrees C)

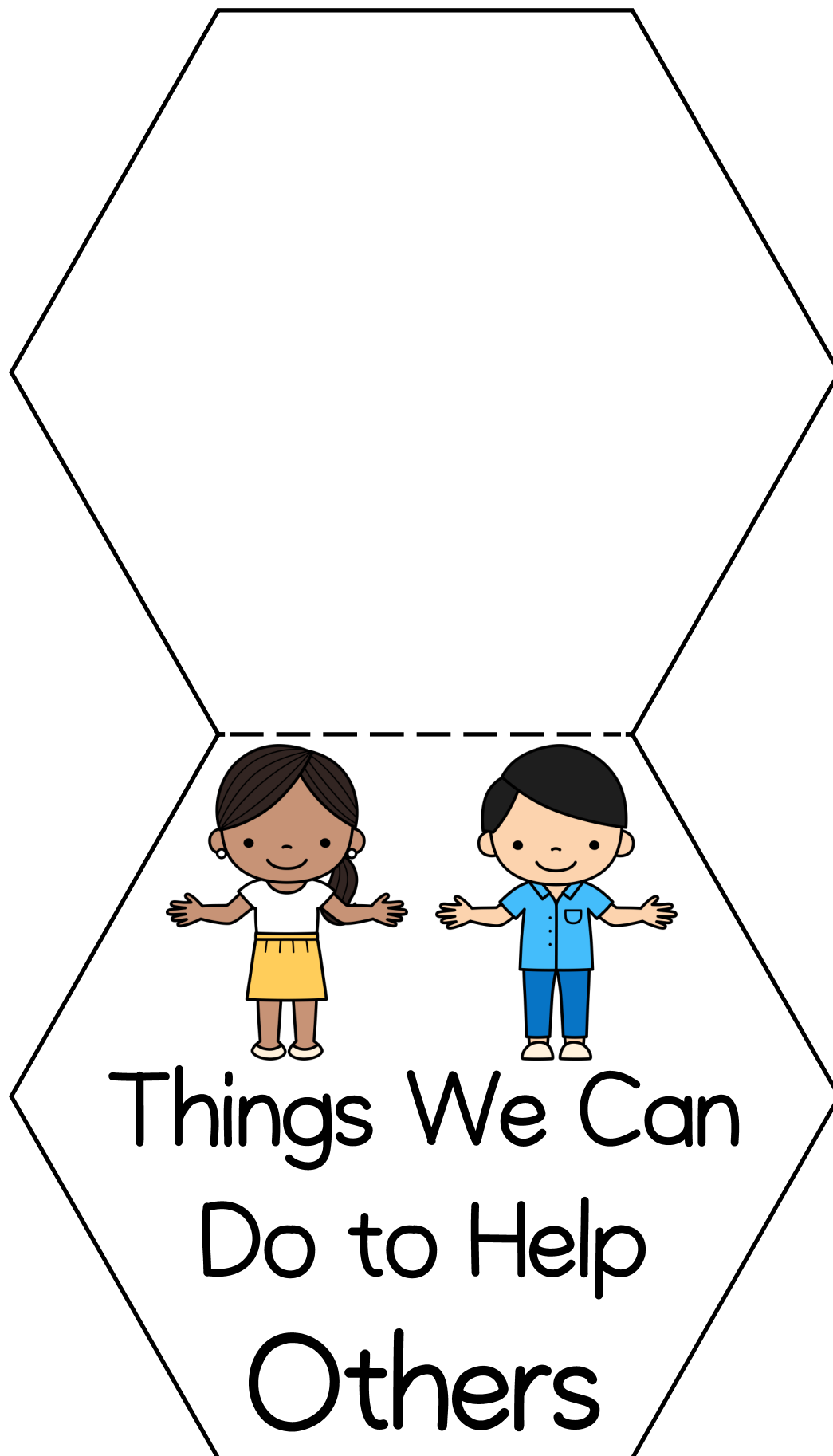
DIRECTIONS:

In a large bowl, stir together the flour and cornmeal. Add baking powder and salt, and mix together well. Stir in water to form a crumbly dough. Work dough with your hands until it holds together. On a floured surface, knead dough until smooth. Divide dough into 10-12 pieces. Roll each into the shape of a ball. Cover lightly with saran wrap and let rest for 10-15 minutes. Flatten each piece of dough by hand, then roll into an 8 to 9-inch round. Heat a large skillet over medium heat. Lightly grease the hot pan, and place one tortilla in the pan. Cook tortilla until light brown, turning to ensure equal browning. Repeat with remaining tortillas.


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Directions: Cut out book as one piece. Fold in half. Record answers inside the book.



Directions: Cut on the solid black lines, removing gray areas next to tabs. Stack tab book in order with cover on top and staple on the left side.

<p>How will you get there?</p> <hr/> <p>How long will it take?</p> <hr/> <p>How much will it cost?</p> <hr/>	<p>Traveling</p>	<p>I Would Like to Visit</p> <hr/> 	
<p>What will you see or do?</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<p>Touring</p>	<p>What will you pack?</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<p>Packing</p>

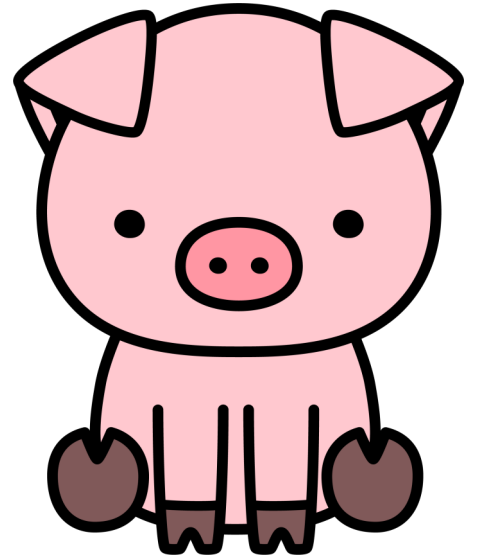
Directions: Cut on solid lines. Fold on dotted lines (like a pamphlet).

Describe a
pig's body.

How do pigs
stay cool?

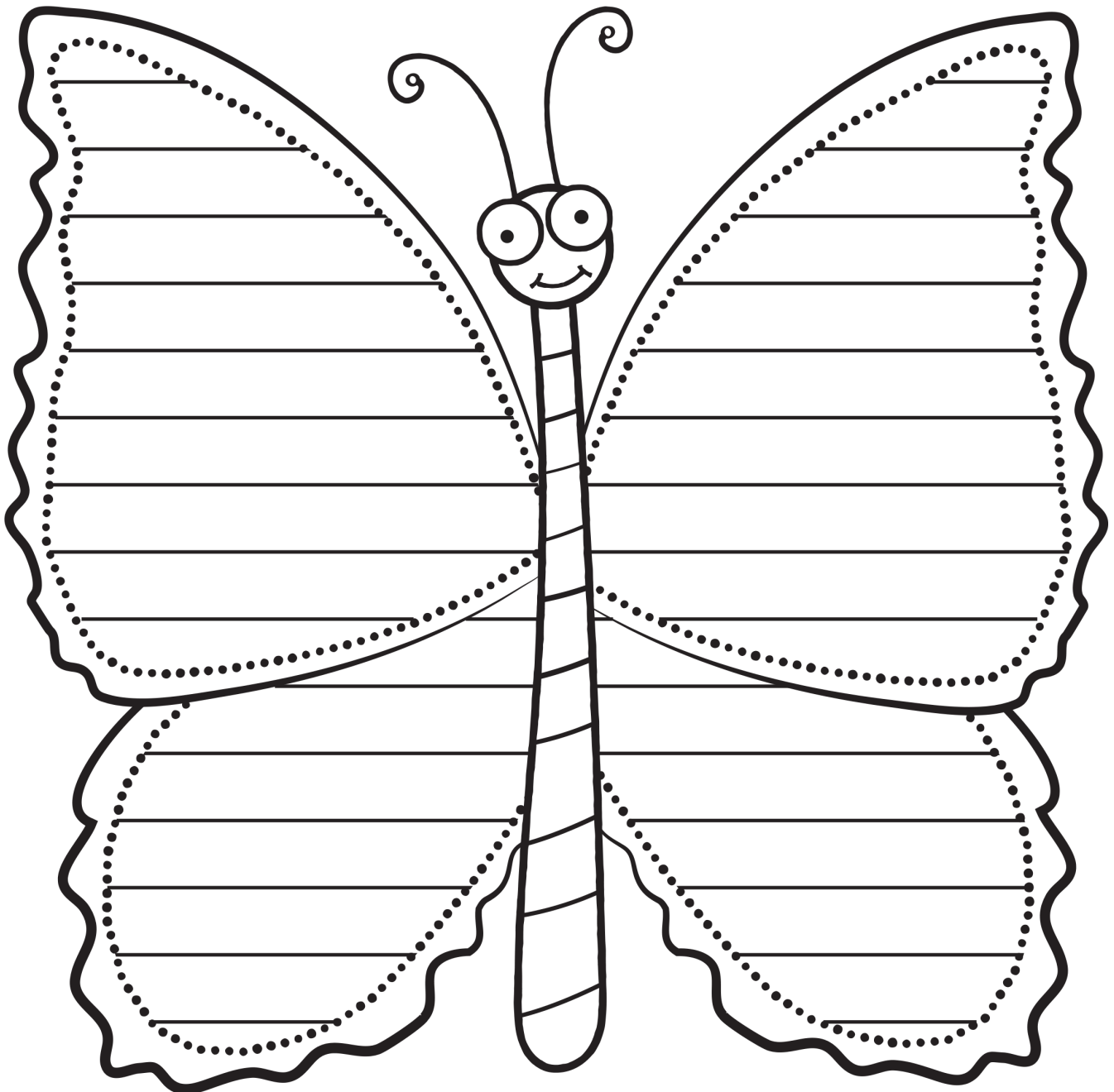
What parts
are used for
meat?

This
Little
Piggy



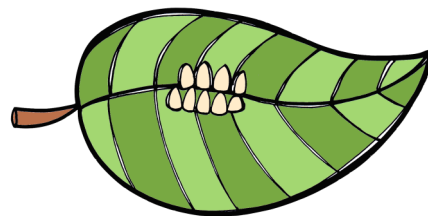
Directions: Cut around butterfly and title. Add facts to the template. Paste into your lap-book.

Monarch Butterfly Facts

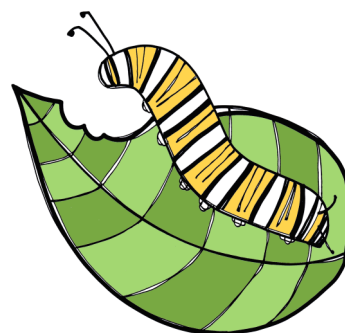


Directions: Cut out book as one piece. Fold on dotted line. Open book and cut on solid lines to form four flaps. Paste the pictures under the appropriate flaps.

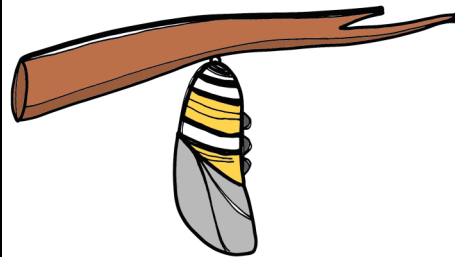
Monarch Life
Cycle Step 1:
Egg



Monarch Life
Cycle Step 2:
Caterpillar



Monarch Life
Cycle Step 3:
Chrysalis

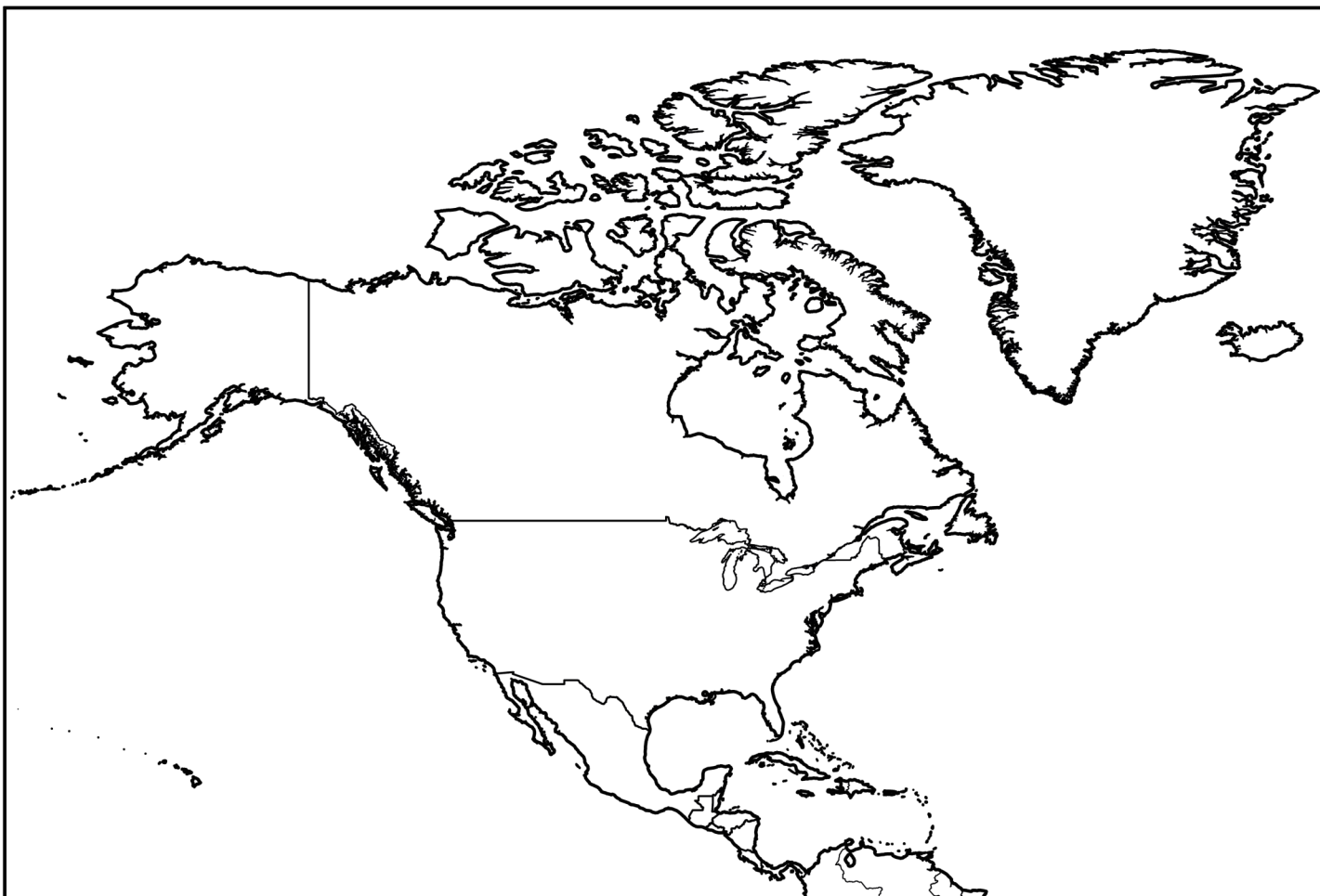


Monarch Life
Cycle Step 4:
Adult



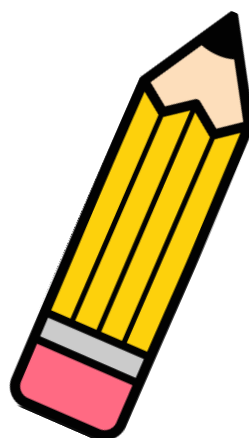
Directions: Cut out map as one piece. Mark the migration pattern on the map. Fold in half. Cut out cover piece ("Monarch Migration") and glue to the front of the map.

Monarch Migration



Directions: Cut out solid lines. Fold on dotted line.

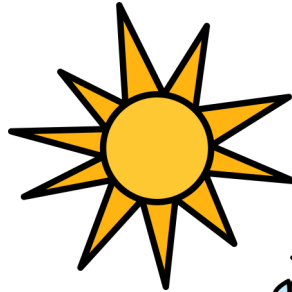
Define
Simile



List
Examples
from
the Story

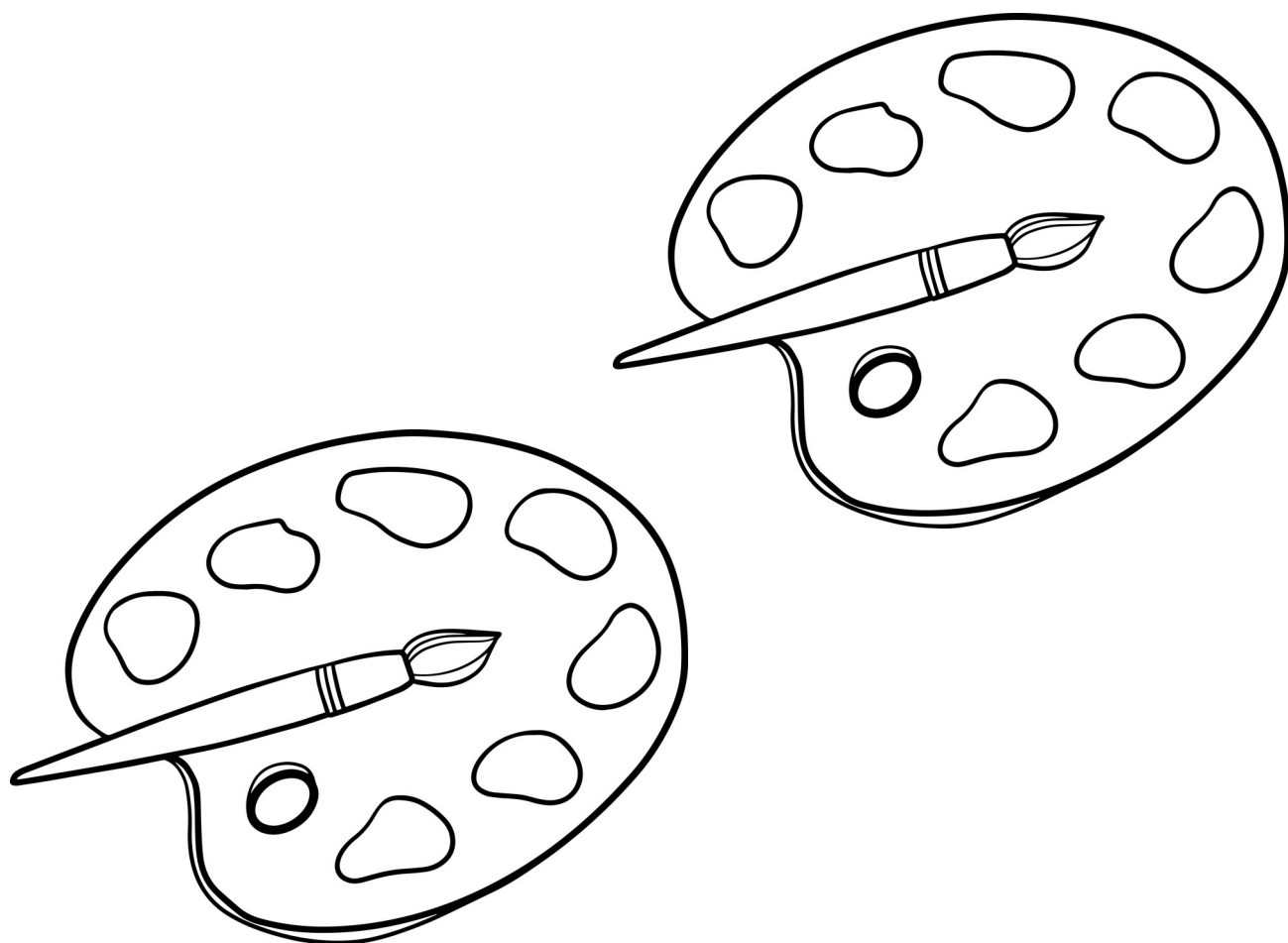
Directions: Cut out solid lines. Fold on dotted line.

What is a
drought?

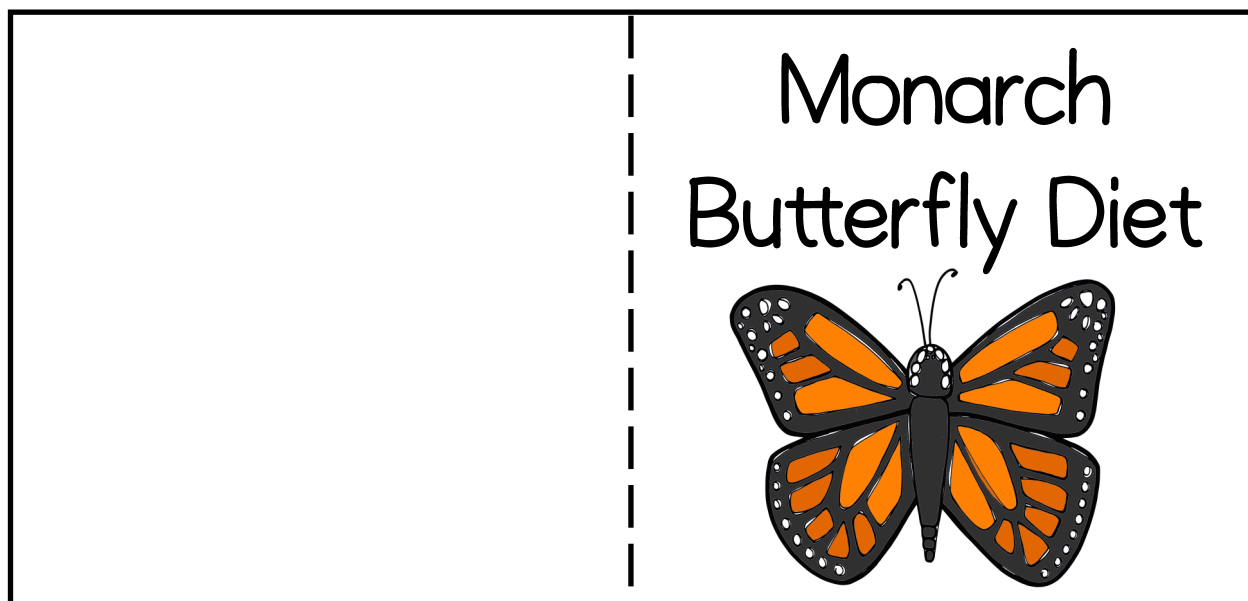


What
are the
consequences
of a
drought?

Directions: Use the palettes with the books on the next page.

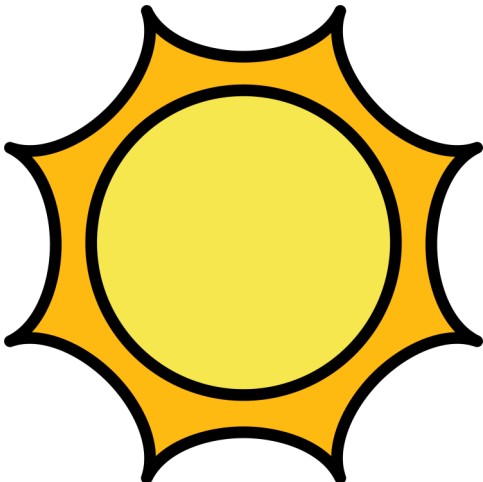


Directions: Cut out solid lines. Fold on dotted line.

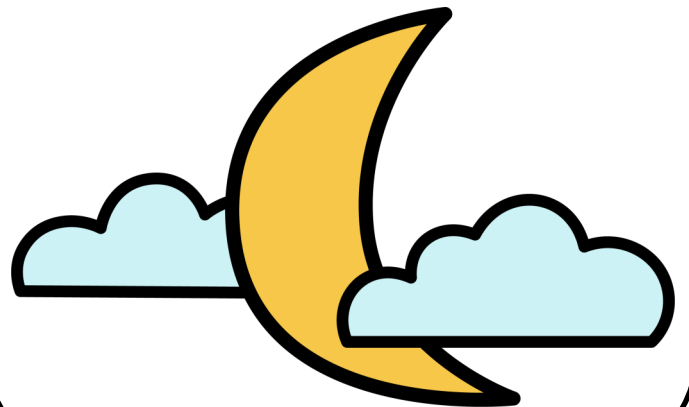


Directions: Cut out books. Fold in half. Have your students color in the palettes on the next page—one with daytime colors used in the story and the other with nighttime colors used in the story. Paste the palettes inside the appropriate books.

Daytime
Colors

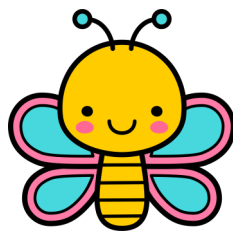


Nighttime
Colors

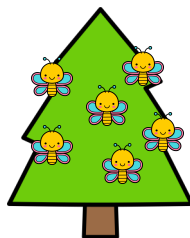


Directions: Cut out book as one piece. Fold left side in. Fold right side in. Open book. Cut on lines to form four flaps. Refold book.

casa		<h1>New Spanish Words</h1> 
mariposa		
milagro		
tigre		



Directions: Paste images and write English words under the flaps.



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