**Station 5: Monarch Interactions with Milkweed**

1. According to the article, how many different species of milkweeds do we know monarchs can eat?

\_\_\_\_According to the article, monarchs are known to eat at least 27 different species of milkweed.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Why do you think we are focusing so much on common milkweed if monarchs can eat so many different species of milkweed?

\_\_\_\_\_Answers will vary. We are focusing on common milkweed because it is a very important food source for the migrating population of Monarchs. Researchers found that most of the monarchs in Mexico had eaten common milkweed when they were caterpillars (Malcolm et al 1989).\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. In your own words, what are cardenolides, and how to they benefit monarchs?

\_\_\_Cardenolides are toxic chemicals found in milkweeds. Monarchs can eat them and store them in their bodies. Other animals, especially vertebrates, can’t eat cardenolides, so when they eat monarchs, they get sick and learn to avoid monarchs. Cardenolides are a kind of protection against predation for butterflies. We don’t know if cardenolides prevent predation by insects, however. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. What is one interesting thing you learned from this article?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Answers will vary.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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1. What questions do you have about monarch interactions with milkweed?

\_\_\_\_\_Answers will vary.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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