

# Pollinators on the Move!

## Essential Question:

*What are some pollinators that migrate?*

## At a Glance:

Learners read 'Pollinator Cards' and discover that some pollinators migrate. They also discover the pollinator's geographical range (i.e. where it migrates to).

## Background Information:

There are 13 species of butterflies from North America that migrate to Central and South America each year. Butterflies are cold-blooded, so they either have an over-wintering adaptation or they migrate to warmer areas. The monarch butterfly is the most famous of butterfly migrant. They are known for their marathon flight from Canada to Mexico. They sometimes travel up to 50 miles a day, at speeds of twelve miles per hour! An adult monarch butterfly can fly from Canada in the fall, spend the winter in the mountains of Mexico, and fly back to the southern US during the following spring. In the winter, hundreds or thousands of monarch butterflies can be seen hanging from the limbs of Oyamel trees high in the mountains of the Mexican forests. Habitat loss is the number one reason the monarch population is decreasing. Butterflies are not the only pollinators that migrate. Hummingbirds fly south to overwinter, as well as some bat species. Animals migrate to overwinter in a different region for climatic, mating, and/or feeding purposes. The number of pollinators surviving their migration travel is declining. Habitat loss is a big problem, but other threats include pesticides, insecticides, cars, predators, large glass buildings (birds fly into them), and bad weather. Here are two links that have more information pertaining to migration of monarch butterflies.  
<http://www.learner.org/jnorth/monarch/>  
<http://www.monarchwatch.org/>

## Preparation:

Print colored copies of cards (from CD) on cardstock. The cards are printed four per page. Cut the cards out. Laminate for durability (optional).

## Procedure:

1. Ask students to name some of the pollinators they have learned about in the Pollination Department. Ask if they know what migration means. (*seasonal or periodic movement of animals in response to changes in [climate](#) or food availability, or to ensure [reproduction](#). Migration most commonly involves movement from one area to another and then back again*).  
*Can you think of some animals that migrate? Are any of these pollinators?*
2. Use the monarch butterfly as an example of migratory pollinators. Provide some background information on their migration pattern and threats to their success.
3. Have learners pair up into partners. Distribute the pollinator cards to each pair of learners.
4. Give learners time to read the description of their pollinator and learn if it migrates and where it migrates to/from.
5. Tell migrating pollinators to stand to your right and those who do not migrate to stand to your left. Tell learner groups to go to their designated area.

**Location:** classroom or outdoors

**Objectives:** Learners will

- 1) name 5 pollinators that migrate and 5 that do not migrate.

**Skills:** science, geography

**Supplies:**

- Pollinator cards

**Subjects:** science

**Time:** 10-15 min

6. Allow each group of partners to briefly describe their pollinator and say whether it migrates or not and to what geographical region.

### **Answers**

#### ***Pollinators that migrate:***

- Gulf Fritillary
- Red Admiral
- Cloudless Sulphur
- Painted Lady
- White-winged dove
- Ruby-throated hummingbird

#### ***Non-migrants:***

- Honeybee
- Paper wasp
- Tachinid fly
- Black swallowtail
- Hawkmoth
- Anglewing
- Bog copper
- Crossline skipper

### **Discussion/Assessment**

Name 5 pollinators that migrate.

Name 5 pollinators that do not migrate.

Why do some pollinators require migration and some do not?