The Monarch's Long Journey

Name _____ **Date** _____

Read the passage. Answer in complete sentences.

Every fall, millions of monarch butterflies in the eastern United States and Canada begin an amazing trip. Some fly up to **3,000 miles** to the mountain forests of central Mexico. They have never been there before, yet they find their way, partly by using the position of the Sun.

Most monarchs live only two to six weeks. But the special generation that migrates in the fall can live up to eight months! They spend the winter clustered together on fir trees, and in spring they start the trip back north.

Monarch caterpillars eat only one kind of plant: **milkweed**. Milkweed has a bitter juice, and eating it makes the caterpillars and butterflies taste bad to birds. Their bright orange color is a warning: "Don't eat me!"

Questions

1. **Where do eastern monarchs go for the winter?**

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2. **How is the fall generation different from other monarchs?**

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3. **Why do birds usually leave monarchs alone?**

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_____

4. **Context clue: what does *migrates* mean?**

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