

# BUTTER-FLIGHT GAME

How many Monarch butterflies will make the migration from Canada to Mexico ?

## MATERIALS

(PROVIDED) Colored marbles

## PROCEDURE

In an open area, establish a starting line (Canada ) and a finish line (Mexico). Depending on the number of students participating, and time allowed for the game, steps from start to finish could be anywhere from 12 to 30 steps, or more.

A Monarch butterfly can migrate up to 80 miles each day. During migration they will face predators, human contact and weather delays. This game is to help the students visualize the migration of a Monarch butterfly, and the perils they face.

Have the students line up in one line across the open area. Explain to the students that they each represent one Monarch butterfly. Have each student take 8 steps forward, each step representing 10 miles. Have each student draw, and then return, a colored marble from the bag. The different colors represent different situations the Monarch may encounter during it's migration. Students should know there is the possibility of drawing a marble that will put them out of the game.

- BLUE - Blue skies, you may take 8 steps forward
- GREEN - Green Meadow, you found nectar plants. Take 4 steps forward, then stop to eat
- YELLOW - A yellow house has been built in your path. Take 3 steps sideways
- WHITE - It's a Wintery Day! Bad weather, stay in place
- RED - Danger ! You have been hit by a car. You are out of the game
- BLACK - You have been eaten by a predator! You are out of the game

The game ends when when the last living Monarch makes it to the Mexican over-wintering grounds.