

★ Lesson 1 ★

Word List

Study the words below. Then do the exercises for the lesson.

average
(av'rij)

n. 1. The usual amount or kind of something. Twenty students in a class is the *average* for Edison School. 2. The result of adding a set of numbers and then dividing the total by the number in the set. The *average* of 2, 3, and 7 is 4. *adj.* Not special or unusual; ordinary. Dikembe Mutombo, who is just over 7 feet tall, is not of *average* height.

border
(bôr'dər)

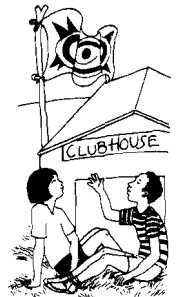
n. 1. A dividing line between two states or countries. When we reached Niagara Falls, Mom explained that the *border* between the United States and Canada ran along the middle of the Niagara River. 2. The edge of something. The old tablecloth had a *border* of fine Belgian lace.

cocoon
(kə kōn)

n. The silky case that a caterpillar makes to protect itself for a time before it becomes a moth or butterfly. The empty *cocoon* hanging from the leaf meant the moth had already flown away.

flutter
(flut'ər)

v. To wave or flap quickly but not regularly. Sitting by their clubhouse, Olivia and Victor watched their flag *flutter* above them.



moisture
(mois' chər)

n. A small amount of water or other liquid, often in the form of small drops. Carla sat on the players' bench and wiped the *moisture* from her face with a towel.

moist

adj. Damp or slightly wet. Grass snakes usually live in *moist* places like the banks of rivers.



Exercise 1: Words and Their Meanings

Look at the group of words on the left. Then circle the letter of the word on the right that has the same meaning.

- 1 wood in the form of trees (a) border (b) cocoon (c) timber (d) nectar
-
- 2 something a person does in stages (a) span (b) border (c) average (d) process
-
- 3 a liquid from flowers (a) nectar (b) moisture (c) cocoon (d) border
-
- 4 a certain length of time (a) cocoon (b) span (c) border (d) average

Now look at the word on the left. Then circle the letter of the group of words on the right that has the same meaning.

- 5 moist (a) easily broken (b) slightly wet
(c) smooth to the touch (d) faint from hunger
-
- 6 flutter (a) to be out of reach (b) to stretch from side to side
(c) to fall to the ground (d) to make quick flapping movements
-
- 7 border (a) the edge of something (b) a covering for a cut or scratch
(c) a serious mistake (d) a long narrow rug
-
- 8 average (a) different in some way (b) lost or misplaced
(c) hard to open or untie (d) not unusual

Story

Read the story below and then answer the questions that follow it.



Butterflies are some of nature's prettiest creatures, and monarch butterflies are especially attractive. They are a common sight in many parts of North America during the summer. They float so lightly on the air that it is hard to believe they make flights of up to two thousand miles. But they do. So let's discover where these butterflies go for the winter.

Starting in late August and continuing through October, monarch butterflies leave the northern states and Canada, where they have spent the summer, and fly south. Those that live west of the Rocky Mountains head for the California coast. Those east of the Rockies travel south to the fir trees of the mountains of central Mexico. They like this place, which is cold but not freezing and which has the right amount of **moisture** in the air. Hundreds of millions of them gather in one small area, completely covering the trees. They stay there, hardly moving, throughout the winter months.

By the middle of March, it is time for them to head north again. At different places during their return flight, female monarch butterflies land where there are patches of milkweed. They lay their eggs on the underside of the leaves and die soon after. About a week later, tiny caterpillars come out of the eggs and start feeding on the milkweed. Its leaves contain a poison that stays inside the caterpillars and adult butterflies. This does not hurt them, but it is harmful to the birds that eat them. After becoming sick, birds learn from their mistake and choose other creatures for food.

When the caterpillars are fully grown, they stop eating. Each spins a **cocoon** around itself and begins the **process** of changing into a butterfly. After about two weeks, they break out of their shells and unfold and stretch their wings. They are ready to continue the flight north, which their parents had begun. How they know where to go is a mystery. They keep flying until they arrive at the very places their parents left in late summer.

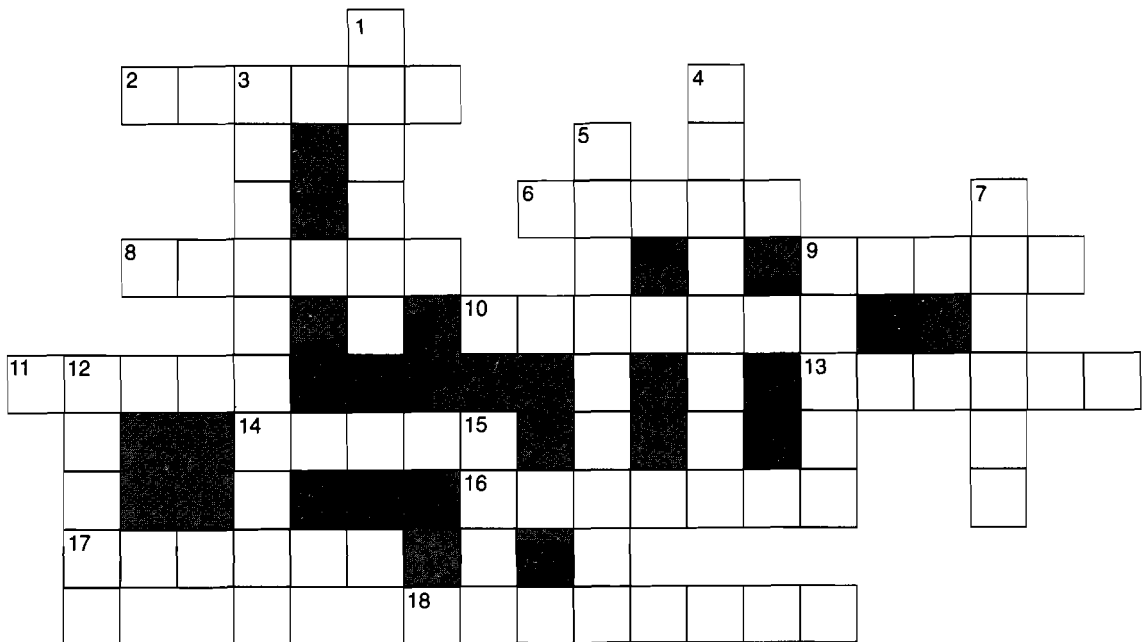
The butterflies that flew south for the winter had a life **span** of five or six months, but these summer butterflies live an **average** of four weeks. They feed on the **nectar** of lilacs and other flowers, lay their eggs, and then die. This cycle is repeated three, four, or five times over the summer. The butterflies that go south in the fall are probably the great-great-grandchildren of those that arrived in the spring. They too will live for about six months.

Sadly, there are fewer and fewer places where monarch butterflies can spend the winter months. In central Mexico, the forests are being cut down for **timber**. In California, the trees along the coast continue to be cleared to make way for houses and shopping malls. The result is fewer **suitable** wintering places for the monarch butterflies. Adding to their troubles is the need of farmers in the United States and Canada to get rid of milkweed. To them it is a weed. To the monarch butterflies, however, it is the only food their caterpillars can eat.

If you would like to attract monarch butterflies to your area, try planting clumps of milkweed in sunny areas sheltered from the wind. They may reward you with a visit, and they are easy to spot. They have large orange wings (about four inches across) with black **borders** and white markings. As you watch them **flutter** by, think about the long journey that they will soon make.

Crossword Puzzle

Look at the nineteen sentences below. Each one has a word missing. Write that word in the correct boxes of the puzzle. Look at the number of each sentence. Then find the same number on the puzzle. Put the first letter of the word in the box with the number. Write the letters going across if the sentence is in the ACROSS column. Write the letters going down if the sentence is in the DOWN column. All of the answers are from Lessons 1 and 2 except 8, 11, and 14 ACROSS and 9 DOWN.



ACROSS

2. The birthday card has a pink _____.
6. Because of the lack of rain, we need to _____ how much water we use.
8. You see clowns and acrobats at the _____.
9. The tennis _____ near our house is usually busy.
10. The _____ age of students in third grade is eight years.
11. A _____ looks like a horse with black and white stripes.
13. The flowers were thick with bees seeking _____.
14. "Heads or _____."
16. The _____ of making this cheese begins, of course, with milking the cows.
17. Inside the _____ is a caterpillar changing into a butterfly.
18. After a ten-minute _____, we returned for the second half of the show.

DOWN

1. There are sixteen teams in this softball _____.
3. For _____ we take long walks on the beach.
4. A small city apartment is not _____ for a large dog.
5. The year 1776 is a _____ in the history of the United States.
7. We expect _____ weather at the North Pole.
9. Prices in the airport shop are given in dollars and _____.
12. In the United States, we _____ a senator for six years.
15. The wings of the condor _____ a distance of up to ten feet.