

## Lesson Plan

### Insect Summaries

**Book:** *Insect Migration*

**Series:** Animal Migrations

**Level:** Beacon

### Objective

To help students practice summarizing the main ideas of a short chapter about insect migration.

### Supplies

- *Insect Migration* book
- Whiteboard
- Paper and pencils

### Before the Activity

Read *Insect Migration* out loud as a class.

### Activity

Divide the class into four groups. Each group will be in charge of summarizing one chapter from *Insect Migration*. Assign each group a chapter. Then write the following questions on the whiteboard.

- What is the main idea of this chapter?
- What facts or examples does the author use to support this idea?
- What does this chapter tell us about insect migration?

Students should work together to answer these three questions in their groups. They should choose someone to be the scribe and write down the group's answers. Then, students should use these answers to write a paragraph (four to six sentences) that summarizes the chapter. The paragraph should start with the topic sentence "Chapter \_\_\_\_ describes \_\_\_\_." After that, students should write a few sentences telling the most important facts that people need to know from the chapter.

Give students several minutes to discuss and write their answers. Then come back together as a class, and ask for volunteers to read their summary.

## **Evaluation**

Were students able to accurately summarize the main ideas of each chapter? Use the following sample summaries as a guide:

### **Chapter 1 (Monarchs on the Move)**

Chapter 1 describes the life of a monarch butterfly. They leave Mexico in the spring. They fly north to find milkweed plants and lay eggs on them. When the eggs hatch, caterpillars spend two weeks eating leaves. When they're full, each caterpillar forms a chrysalis for 10 days before they come out as butterflies. In the fall, the monarchs return to Mexico.

### **Chapter 2 (One-Way Migration)**

Chapter 2 describes one-way migration. One-way migration is for insects that do not live long enough to fly back. Desert locusts lay their eggs after heavy rains and have to migrate to find new food. Painted lady butterflies have a one-way migration to find specific flowers. Hoverflies migrate each winter and spread pollen as they move.

### **Chapter 3 (From Breeding to Feeding)**

Chapter 3 describes insects that frequently travel between feeding and breeding areas. Salt marsh mosquitoes lay eggs in the mud of salt marshes and leave to find food. Some grasshoppers lay eggs in sand and weeds and migrate in swarms to find plants to eat. The cockchafer beetle lays its eggs in soil and migrates to forests to mate.

### **Chapter 4 (Migrating to Hibernate)**

Chapter 4 describes insects that migrate to hibernate. Some insects hibernate to survive seasons that are too hot or too cold. Some ladybugs migrate to forest areas in the fall to hibernate through winter. Green darner dragonflies migrate if the weather is warm and hibernate if the weather is cold. Bogong caterpillars hibernate in caves during the summer to stay cool.

## **Standards**

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' reading standards for informational text, grade 3 (RI 3.2).