

WINGED WONDERS by Meeg Pincus

For decades, as the monarch butterflies swooped through every year like clockwork, people from Canada to the United States to Mexico wondered, "Where do they go?" In 1976 the world learned the answer: after migrating thousands of miles, the monarchs roost by the millions in an oyamel grove in Central Mexico's mountains. But who solved this mystery? Was it the scientist or the American adventurer? The citizen scientists or the teacher or his students?



Click the book to listen on YouTube

Fun Facts:

- Monarchs have a wingspan of approximately 4 inches and an average weight of about half a gram about the weight of a paper clip!
- Monarchs range from Canada to Mexico depending on the time of the year.
- Milkweed plants are the only source of food for the monarch caterpillar.
- Butterfly wings are densely covered with scales that improve their aerodynamic efficiency. The upper
- surface of the thorax is covered with long hair like scales that help retain heat.
- To find more fun facts click here.

Videos:

- Farm Monitor: <u>Don't Forget About the Role Butterflies Play in Pollination</u>
- Wild Kratts PBS Voyage of the Butterflier
- Monarch Butterfly | Amazing Animals
- Life Cycle of the Monarch Butterfly
- The Amazing Migration of the Monarch Butterfly
- Visit a school in Lowndes County and learn more about monarchs and milkweed
- Learn how to create a simple pollinator planter

Activities:

- Request free Pollinator Garden Mix
- Plan a monarch friendly garden so plants/seeds can be planted in the spring
- Determine what milkweed plants should be in your garden-VERY important for monarchs!
- Participate in the MONARCHS ACROSS GEORGIA Symbolic Monarch Migration
- Easy to paint monarch butterfly craft
- Butterfly life cycle activity using pasta