

# Nat Theo Club

## FIELD NOTES

ISSUE #86



### Monarch caterpillar

Insect

#### MILKWEED

Monarch butterflies lay their eggs on milkweed plants. This plant is very important to the survival of the caterpillar because the milky white sap makes the caterpillar poisonous to birds. Birds may eat one monarch caterpillar and feel bad afterward. They remember to avoid them in the future.

Often, you can know if caterpillars are poisonous because they are brightly colored, or they have a fuzzy or bristle-like hairs covering their body. This is often but not always the case.



#### DO YOU ENJOY PLAYING HIDE AND SEEK?

A few days ago, I found a monarch caterpillar in my garden. It was hiding on a swamp milkweed plant. I often see monarch butterflies but rarely see a monarch caterpillar. Monarchs can drink nectar from any flower but only lay their eggs on milkweed plants. I chose to plant milkweed so that I would have the chance to see monarch caterpillars munching the leaves of my milkweed plants.



Monarch caterpillars blend in very well with the plants, making it difficult to find them. Every day I go outside and search for the caterpillar, hoping a bird didn't decide to eat it. So far, every day I have found the growing caterpillar. I hope to watch it turn into a chrysalis and then a butterfly. Monarchs that hatch late in the summer are the ones that will fly to Mexico to overwinter. I would love to say that one of mine was able to take that long journey south.

Did you know that God wants us to look for Him and find Him? In Jeremiah 29:13, it says, "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." God doesn't hide from us, but sometimes we are so busy that we forget He is right there with us. He promises that if we truly look for Him with our whole heart, we will find Him.

Have you ever played hide-and-seek? Sometimes it feels hard to find your friend, but you keep looking. God wants us to search for Him the same way—never giving up. The difference is, God isn't trying to stay hidden. He is waiting for you to discover Him in His Word and creation.