

1.53 Talking about monarch butterflies

Topic: Animals

Subtopic: Insects

Activity type/skill: Short talk

Literacy focus: Speaking

Genre: Information reports

Objective

- Provide an opportunity for students to use the language of science.
- Create a situation where students can practise speaking formally in a non-threatening situation.
- Encourage students to focus on accuracy.

What you need

- Student worksheet (see next page)

What to do

1. Look at the student worksheet and help the students make notes by answering the questions given – they should not write full sentence answers.
2. Help them practise sentences that provide the information needed and get them to help each other.
3. Get them to present their information to the group. (Support students during the talk by asking the given questions if they want you to. Be satisfied with a few well formed, accurate sentences.)

Extending the activity

- Confident students can repeat the activity focusing on another insect.
- Record the talks on tape, if you can. Tell the students you are going to do this. It will encourage them to be more accurate. Play the recording to them, pointing out their strengths.

Activity fifty-three

You are the expert

1. Say your name.
2. Say what you are an expert on.
(I am an expert on monarch butterflies).
3. Say what monarch butterflies look like.
4. Say how monarch butterflies are like other insects.
5. Explain the life cycle of monarch butterflies.
6. Add any other details that make the monarch butterflies special.

