Text Evidence and Inferences in Nonfiction

Name: _____ Date: _____ Score: _____ / 10

Quick Review

When a question asks what the text says, point to an exact sentence. When it asks what you can infer, combine clues from the text with what you already know.

PART 1 — READ

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

The Long Journey of the Monarch Butterfly

Every fall, millions of monarch butterflies leave the cool forests and gardens of the northern United States and Canada. They begin a journey that can stretch nearly three thousand miles. Their goal is a small group of mountain forests in central Mexico, where the air stays cool but never freezes. No other butterfly in North America travels this far.

The monarchs that fly south are special. Most monarchs live only about four to six weeks, but the ones born in late summer can live up to nine months. Scientists call this the "super generation." These butterflies do not lay eggs right away. Instead, they save their energy for the long flight. They glide on warm air currents to keep from getting tired, and they stop at fields of flowers to drink nectar along the way.

When the monarchs reach Mexico, they cluster together on fir trees. So many butterflies land on a single branch that the branch can bend toward the ground. The thick clumps of butterflies help keep each one warm during cool mountain nights. In February and March, the super generation finally lays eggs and begins the trip back north. Their children and grandchildren will continue the journey, returning to the same gardens their great-grandparents left months before.

PART 2 — PRACTICE

Use the article to answer each question. Look for exact words when the question asks what the text says.

1. According to the article, where do the monarchs spend the winter?

A. In the gardens of the northern United States

B. In the warm valleys of southern Mexico

C. In the cool forests of Canada

D. In a small group of mountain forests in central Mexico

2. About how far is the monarch's fall journey?
   - **A.** About 300 miles
   - **B.** About 900 miles
   - **C.** Nearly 3,000 miles
   - **D.** About 6,000 miles
3. Why does the author call the late-summer monarchs the "super generation"?
   - **A.** They live many times longer than ordinary monarchs.
   - **B.** They can fly without ever stopping to rest.
   - **C.** They are larger and stronger than other monarchs.
   - **D.** They are the only monarchs that lay eggs.
4. Based on the article, why do monarchs glide on warm air currents instead of flapping the whole way?
   - **A.** To save energy for the long flight
   - **B.** To stay out of reach of birds
   - **C.** To follow other butterflies more easily
   - **D.** Because their wings are too small to flap
5. Which detail from the text BEST shows that huge numbers of monarchs gather in Mexico?
   - **A.** "They begin a journey that can stretch nearly three thousand miles."
   - **B.** "They glide on warm air currents to keep from getting tired."
   - **C.** "Their children and grandchildren will continue the journey."
   - **D.** "So many butterflies land on a single branch that the branch can bend toward the ground."
6. What can the reader infer about WHY the Mexican forests work for the monarchs?
   - **A.** The forests have warm temperatures that let monarchs lay eggs all winter.
   - **B.** The forests stay cool but not cold, which lets the butterflies rest without freezing.
   - **C.** The forests have no other animals that bother monarchs.
   - **D.** The forests are close to the gardens where the monarchs were born.
7. Which detail from the text BEST shows that one monarch does NOT make the round trip alone?
   - **A.** Their children and grandchildren continue the journey north.
   - **B.** Monarchs glide on warm air currents.
   - **C.** The super generation lives up to nine months.
   - **D.** They cluster together on fir trees.
8. Why do the butterflies cluster together on branches at night?
   - **A.** The branches are too thin to hold a single butterfly.
   - **B.** Clustering keeps each butterfly warm in the cool mountain air.
   - **C.** Clustering protects them from rain.
   - **D.** Clustering is how monarchs lay their eggs.

9. What can you infer about how the monarchs find their way to Mexico? Use a clue from the text to support your answer.

_____

_____

10. Which sentence from the article BEST supports the idea that the journey takes many MONTHS?

A. "Every fall, millions of monarch butterflies leave..."

B. "In February and March, the super generation finally lays eggs and begins the trip back north."

C. "They glide on warm air currents to keep from getting tired."

D. "The thick clumps of butterflies help keep each one warm during cool mountain nights."

Answer Keys

1	A	B	C	**D**	6	A	**B**	C	D
2	A	B	**C**	D	7	**A**	B	C	D
3	**A**	B	C	D	8	A	**B**	C	D
4	**A**	B	C	D	9	See below			
5	A	B	C	**D**	10	A	**B**	C	D

Explanations

1. D	Paragraph 1 names the destination exactly. A names the place they LEAVE in fall (detail-from-wrong-paragraph). C is also a starting place, not a destination. B sounds plausible — Mexico is warm — but the text specifies COOL mountain forests in CENTRAL Mexico, not southern valleys.
2. C	Paragraph 1 says "nearly three thousand miles." A drops a zero (a common misread of "three thousand"). B is a believable cross-country distance but unsupported. D doubles the number, perhaps by adding the return trip — but the question asks about the fall journey only.
3. A	Paragraph 2 contrasts a 4–6 week lifespan with up to nine months — a real, nameable reason. C is a plausible meaning of "super" but not supported (size is never mentioned). B contradicts the text (they DO stop at flowers). D flips the facts — the super generation actually DELAYS laying eggs.
4. A	The text says they glide "to keep from getting tired," which is energy-saving. B is a real-world plausible idea (birds DO eat butterflies) but the text never says it. C confuses gliding with grouping. D contradicts what we know about monarchs.
5. D	A bending branch is direct evidence of huge numbers. A is about distance, not numbers. B is about flying style. C is about generations, which describes WHO travels but not HOW MANY arrive together.
6. B	The text specifies the air "stays cool but never freezes," and the super generation rests rather than laying eggs. A flips the facts (they don't lay eggs there in winter). C is real-world plausible but unsupported. D contradicts the 3,000-mile distance.
7. A	The mention of children and grandchildren completing the trip is the proof. C is true but only shows the southbound trip; the round trip is longer than nine months. B is about flight technique. D is about clustering, not about who completes the trip.
8. B	Paragraph 3 directly states clusters "help keep each one warm." A contradicts the text — branches bend BECAUSE so many butterflies land on them. C is real-world plausible but not in the text. D mixes up clustering with egg-laying.
9.	**Answer:** Sample answers (any ONE): (1) Monarchs must have a built-in (inborn) sense of direction, because the super generation has never been to Mexico before but still reaches the exact same forests. (2) They probably use the position of the sun or warm air currents, because the text shows they glide on warm air. NOT acceptable: answers that say the parent butterflies show the babies the way (the parents die before the trip back), or that the butterflies follow a map. Strong answers link an inference (inborn sense / sun or air cues) to text evidence (a new generation reaches the same place; they glide on warm air). Reject answers with no text evidence or that contradict the text.

10. B	Fall departure plus February–March egg-laying spans about five months, proving the trip is long. A says when they LEAVE but not for how long. C is about flight technique. D is about cold nights, not time.

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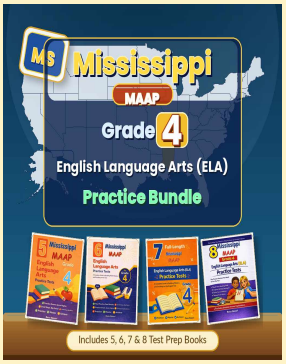

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