




# Fun facts about insects!


 Arthropods are invertebrate animals (animals that have a backbone) that also have an exoskeleton (their skeletons are on the outside of their body). Insects are a type of arthropod with six legs and generally one or two pairs of wings. So, spiders and scorpions are arthropods but are not insects. And bees, dragonflies and beetles are both insects and arthropods.

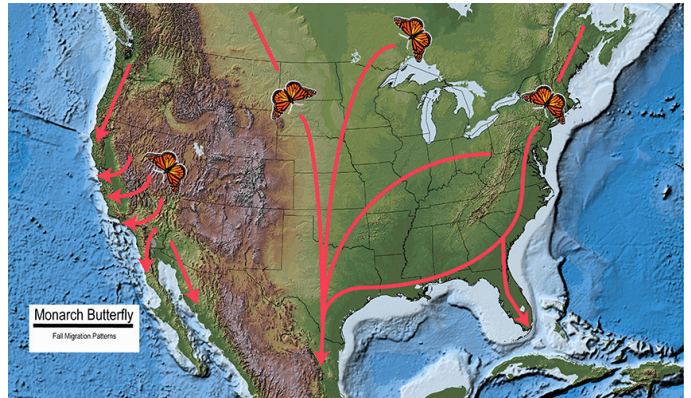
 About 1 in every 3 of the foods Americans eat comes from crops pollinated by honeybees! This includes apples, melons, cranberries, pumpkins, squash, broccoli, and almonds, just to name a few.

 About 3,600 bee species are living in the US! The most common pollinator is the European Honeybee (*Apis mellifera*), which is not native to the US, but was brought over by European settlers.



European Honeybee  
(*Apis mellifera*)


 Some Monarch butterflies in the US journey from the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico and return to the north again in the spring. This is about 2,000 miles or 4,000 miles round trip!





Fall Migration (September - November)  
Routes are based on tag recoveries and observations.  
Image courtesy of the U.S. FOREST SERVICE

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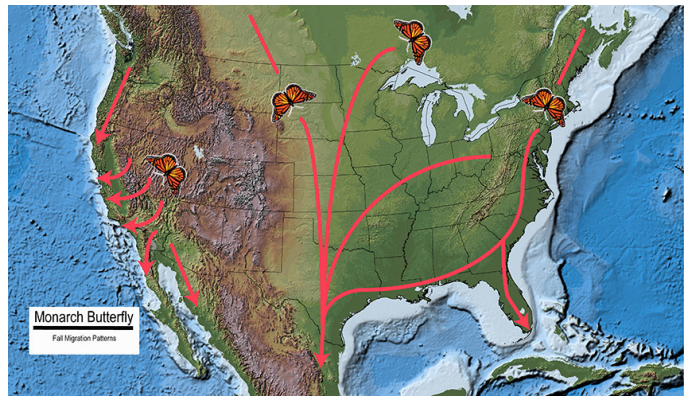
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