



Dear Friends to the North,

Monarch butterflies arrive at their overwintering sites in our Oyamel fir forests just as we are receiving your beautiful Ambassadors as a sign of friendship and a commitment to conserving their habitat. Through monarchs, we have studied our local flora and fauna, and now, they invite us to look into the night at their nocturnal counterparts, moths!

We tend to distrust what lives in or comes from darkness but moths are as harmless and beautiful creatures as any other animal.

Can you name this moth species?

Where do you think it might camouflage itself?



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Moths are extremely important pollinators. Overnight, they transport pollen from many different flowers not often visited by bees. This facilitates genetic diversity in plant communities across landscapes, as they can travel longer distances than bees.

Pollinators face many threats such as pesticides, climate change, and habitat loss. One hazard unique to our nocturnal pollinators is light pollution, which can disorient them in finding food and mates.



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Moths and their caterpillars are also an important food source for many animal species such as frogs, toads, lizards, bats, owls, and other bird species. Their population decline could be disastrous for many wildlife species.

The wings of this **Forbes' Silkmoth** have four transparent windows and they span 12.5 cm.

Is that dimension greater than the width of this paper? Measure it to confirm. _____ cm

Even small moths can display spectacular colors and patterns. When you go into the forest, look for this day-light flying beauty and observe the iridescent color on its body and wings.

The antennae are key to gender. Male or female? _____

Can you name this moth species? _____

We should try to keep our yard with a mixture of fallen leaves, old stems, small flowering plants, shrubs, and a tree if there is space. There, adult moths can find nectar, shelter, and host plants on which to lay their eggs. Our yards should mimic nature. Too much tidiness outside is not good for wildlife. Let's conserve and increase habitat for monarchs and moths!



Project Noah Nature School Photographer Felix Fleck 2017

My name is _____.

I attend _____ grade at _____ school.

I live near the _____ Monarch Butterfly Sanctuary.