



## Level 3 • Module 2

# Survival and Change with Spotlight Lessons on Weather

## Lesson Overview

Your student is learning how butterflies survive over time in a changing environment and applying this understanding to other plants and animals that have survived or become extinct. In Spotlight Lessons on Weather, your student is collecting, analyzing, and comparing weather data.

Classroom activities for this lesson include:

- Studying butterfly fossils to gather information about their past environment
- Observing caterpillars in an artificial habitat to learn about what organisms need from their habitats to survive and what characteristics help them survive
- Learning about effects of seasonal and long-term environmental changes and why they may cause some organisms to survive, move, or die
- Writing a letter to community leaders about threats specific to monarch butterflies
- Building a rain gauge to measure precipitation

### Conversation Starters

Support your student's learning with these talking points:

- Talk about how plants and animals in your area are suited for or have adapted to their habitats.
- Discuss what happens to plants and animals during different seasons.
- Point out changes happening in your community such as construction, and discuss the impact on animal habitats.
- Talk about weather conditions including cloud cover, precipitation, and wind speed.

### Activities

Have fun with these related activities at home:

- Help your student keep a nature journal.
- Plant a butterfly bush (*Buddleia*) and observe the butterflies that visit.
- Visit a natural history museum to explore fossils and timelines of Earth's past.
- Sketch or take photos of plants and animals at a local park or wildlife sanctuary.
- Record a weather forecast. Compare the forecast to the next day's weather conditions.



### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Visit your local library or use an online library to explore topics related to the module, such as local fossils, animal migrations, animal groups, and butterflies.



Learn about monarch butterfly migration at <https://journeynorth.org/monarchs>.

Explore the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument at <https://www.nps.gov/flfo/index.htm>.