

Sample 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading Questions ACT Aspire  
60 minutes—31 questions—multiple choice and constructed response  
(Excerpt of text)

Citizen Scientists

The student treks through a field hoping to find a milkweed plant. Finally she spots one. She closely examines the plant and finds a Monarch caterpillar munching on milkweed leaves, its favorite food. She pulls out her notebook and jots down her location. Once home from her expedition, she enters the location of the milkweed plant and monarch caterpillar on the Monarch Larva Monitoring Project website. She is now part of a global community of citizen scientists.

Citizen science provides amateur scientists, including students with the opportunity to assist professional scientists with collecting data. Currently, there are citizen science projects all over the world. These projects include counting bird populations measuring snowfall, or even determining how much city light affects peoples' ability to star gaze. No matter what information these amateur scientists collect, they become valuable members of the scientific community. (Text continues)

Question 27

What is the main purpose of the passage?

- A To inform readers about citizen science and the Monarch Larva monitoring Project
- B To entertain readers with stories of catching butterflies
- C To persuade readers to help professional scientists save the monarch butterfly
- D To explain why butterflies migrate north in the spring

Question 30

Which of the following quotations, highlighted in the passage, includes an opinion?

- A "She closely examines the plant and finds a monarch caterpillar munching on milkweed leaves, its favorite food."
- B "Monarch butterflies spend their winters in Mexico, and then in the spring fly almost 3,000 miles to the northern United States and Canada."
- C "The eggs eventually hatch and become caterpillars, which are the larva of the monarch butterfly."
- D "By assisting with this research, citizen scientists are ensuring that future generations can enjoy the monarch one of the most beautiful butterflies in the world."

Question 35

Explain why scientists are interested in studying the monarch butterfly. Provide two reasons from the passage to support your answer.

- Passages include literary narratives (25%), social studies (25%), sciences (25%), and humanities (possibly memoirs or personal essays) (25%).
- Questions may be multiple choice and constructed response (requires students to explain, justify, critique, create, propose, produce, design, etc.).