

The Parts of a Milkweed Plant, and a Few of its Animal Associates

Name....

Milkweed is a splendid plant that provides shelter, food, and materials for many different living things, including us humans. Can you answer the following questions about milkweed based on today's discussions and your understanding of how plants live? Write the answer next to the question. Use the Word Bank to help you with the spelling. Some of the words in these sentences are difficult. Just try to sound them out. Key information is in bold type.

1. What part of the milkweed plant contains many strong fibers that can be used by Baltimore Orioles for weaving protective hanging nests for their young? (In the living plant, **these fibers provide support** and help **transport sap and water**.)
2. What part of the milkweed is specialized to **catch sunlight** and **make food** for the plant (in the form of sugars and starches / carbohydrates)?
3. What structure is **dispersed by the wind** thanks to a cluster of light-weight, silky filaments?
4. What parts of the plant survive the harsh, freezing temperatures of winter? They also store extra energy reserves. They are specialized to **anchor the plant in the soil** and **absorb water and minerals**.
5. What part of the plant **attracts insects with fragrances, pink color, and a generous supply of nectar and pollen**? This is the part of the plant that **makes the seeds**.
6. What is the name for the white, **liquid** part of the plant that contains toxic chemical compounds and is very sticky. Additionally, it provides water and sugars to the various parts of the plant's body. Its toxic chemicals have evolved to help protect the plant from hungry plant-eaters - herbivores such as insects or deer.

Word Bank for the Milkweed Plant:

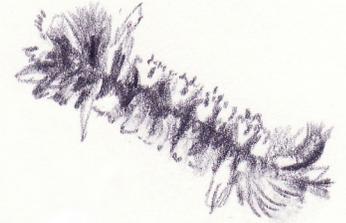
Leaves, Roots, Flowers, Stems, Sap, Seed

Word Bank for Arthropods associated with Milkweeds:

Crab Spider, Milkweed Beetle, Bumblebee, Milkweed Bug, Milkweed Tussock Moth Larva, Monarch Butterfly Caterpillar / Larva

Next, label these various arthropod animals. Use your Word Bank!

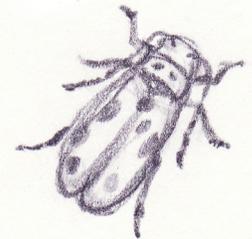
1.



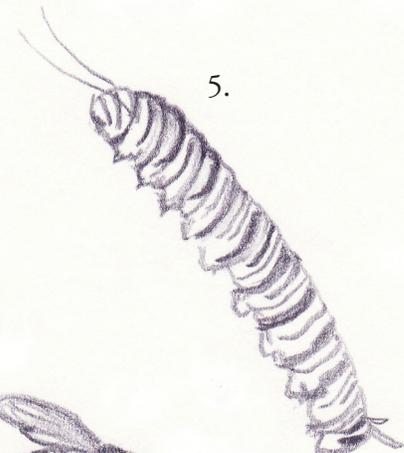
2.



3.



4.



5.



6.