



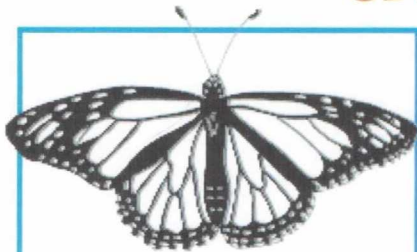
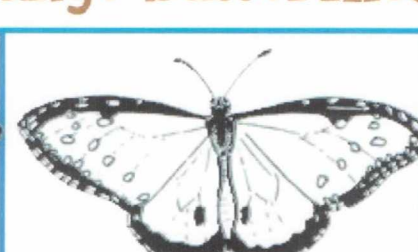
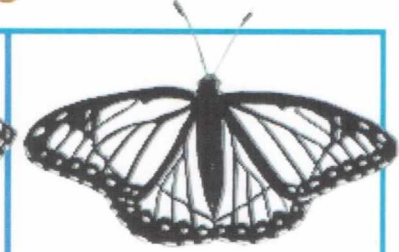
# Monarch or Mimic?

Monarchs are often mixed up with queen and viceroy butterflies. There's a reason they look alike. The similar color patterns send the same message to hungry predators: "I taste really bad!" Copying like this is called mimicry. Monarchs and queens actually belong to the same family. The viceroy isn't related, so it's a true mimic. Looking alike is good for the butterflies, but tough on butterfly watchers. Can you "spot" the differences?



1. Look at each butterfly carefully. How are they different? If you saw one in a garden, would you know which it was?
2. Which characteristics or traits could you use to tell one butterfly from the other? Spots, stripes, shape, body color? Traits used to identify wildlife are called **field marks**.
3. Fill in the chart with field marks. We've filled in a few for you, as examples.

## Orange butterflies

		
monarch	queen	viceroy

Body (not wing) color (light or dark?)	dark	light	
White wing spots			Spots along edges and in row along bottom
Black wing stripes	Thick stripes		

4. Choose one of the butterflies above. Write a description of it for someone who's never seen it:

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### TRY THIS!

Take turns reading your descriptions with a neighbor and see if both of you can guess which butterfly the other is talking about.

