

Name _____



Idea Tracks

Directions: Read each short nonfiction paragraph. Match it to the correct main idea.

- A. How recycling paper helps the environment
- B. Why bridges are built and how they are designed
- C. How shadows are created by light
- D. The long-distance travel of monarch butterflies
- E. The importance of coral reefs in the ocean

_____ 1. Coral reefs are underwater structures made by tiny animals called coral. These reefs grow very slowly over many years. They provide homes for many fish and sea creatures. Coral reefs also help protect coastlines from strong waves.

_____ 2. Recycling paper helps save trees and energy. Old paper is cleaned, broken down, and pressed into new sheets. This process reduces trash in landfills. Recycling also helps keep the environment cleaner.

_____ 3. Bridges are built to help people and vehicles cross over water, valleys, or roads. Some bridges use strong cables, while others use thick supports underneath. Engineers carefully design bridges to hold heavy weight. Safety testing is an important part of bridge building.

_____ 4. Every fall, monarch butterflies fly thousands of miles to warmer areas. They travel in groups and rest along the way. In spring, their young begin the journey back north. This long trip helps monarchs survive cold weather.

_____ 5. Shadows form when an object blocks light. The light cannot pass through the object, so a dark shape appears on the ground or wall. Shadows change size depending on how close the light is. They also move as the light source moves.