



MONARCH BUTTERFLY



Scientific Name: *Danaus plexippus*

Description: Monarch butterflies have two pairs of bright orange wings with a black border and white spots on the edges. They are about 4" wide and weigh less than half a gram.

FUN FACTS



-  Monarchs migrate and fly long distances on a seasonal basis to find food, better conditions, and places to breed.
-  Some monarchs travel up to 100 miles a day during their 3,000 mile migration across North America.
-  It can take up to 5 generations to complete their journey. Individual butterflies live only about 2-6 weeks, except the last generation, which can live for up to 9 months.
-  Millions of butterflies arrive in México during the Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) celebrations around October 31.
-  Monarchs smell with their antennae and use sensory hairs on their legs and feet to taste.

FAVORITE COLORS & PLANTS



Adult butterflies love native plants and are attracted to red, orange, yellow, pink, and purple flowers.

Monarchs lay their eggs on milkweed plants because their leaves are the caterpillars' only food source.



HABITAT

Spring & Summer: Open fields and meadows where milkweed grows
Winter: Mountains and forests



HELP MONARCHS THRIVE



- Due to climate change and other habitat threats, there are not as many monarchs as there used to be.
- Help increase their numbers by growing native flowers and milkweed in your garden!



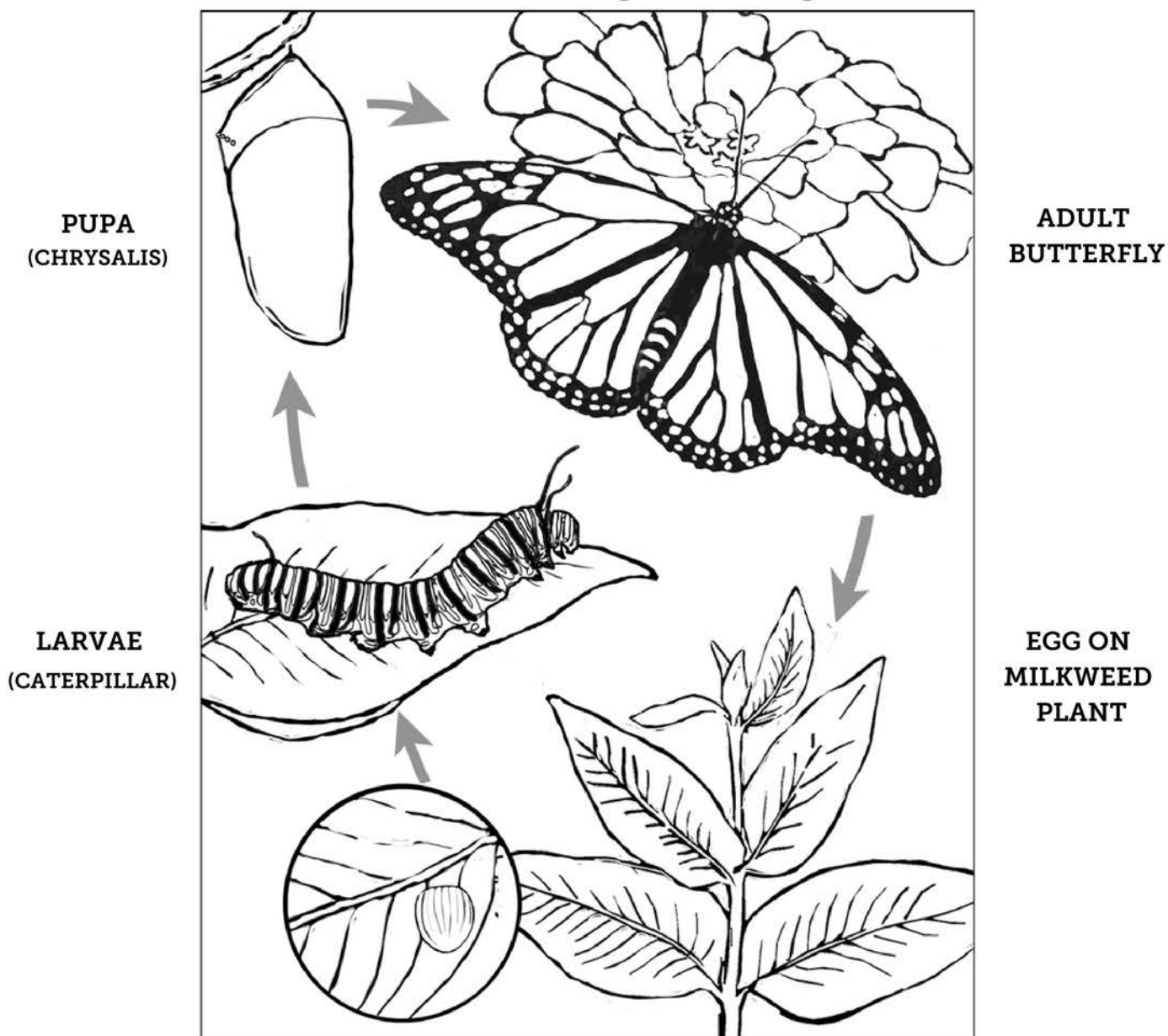


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Metamorphosis: a profound change in form from one stage to the next in the life history of an organism

L I F E C Y C L E C o l o r i n g P a g e





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Map Your Monarch Migration Route

Monarch butterflies fly north each spring and then fly south each fall. They overwinter in two different locations depending on where they fly during spring through fall. On the map, you will see a black line. Monarch butterflies that journey to the left of the dark line migrate to the overwintering site in California. Monarchs to the right of the line migrate to the overwintering site in Mexico.

Directions:

1. Find your current location on the map below and make a dot to mark it.
2. Next, imagine you are a monarch butterfly getting ready to migrate from your current location. Determine where you will overwinter based on the note above the map.
3. Draw a line to your overwintering site. It can be a straight line or squiggly.
4. Make a list of all the states you'll be flying through.





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Monarch Metamorphosis Cards

Directions:

1. Color and label cards with the correct life cycle stage: egg, larvae, pupa, or adult.
2. Next, cut out cards and practice placing them in order.

