

THE MONARCH BUTTERFLY

a journey through their life stages

Milkweed is the only plant monarch caterpillars eat!



Female monarchs lay tiny eggs on the backsides of milkweed leaves.



The larvae hatch after 3-5 days and begin to feast.



For the next 9-14 days, caterpillars molt several times, increasing in size with each molt.



After 10-14 days, an adult butterfly emerges, and the cycle begins again.



The caterpillar pupates into a chrysalis. Within the chrysalis, wings emerge.



When it's time, the caterpillar spins a silk mat, attaches to a branch or stem, and goes into "J" formation, forming a pre-pupa.