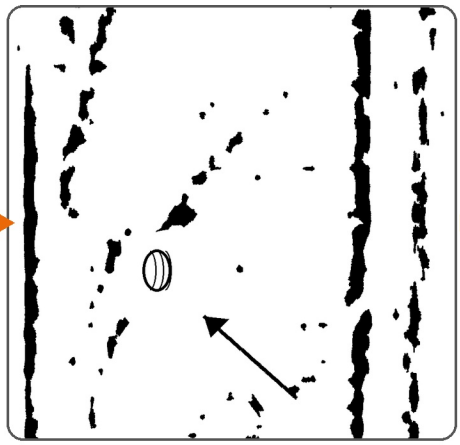
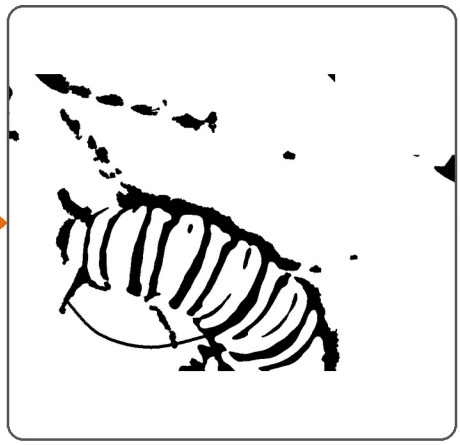
Monarch Butterfly Life Cycle

Color the transformation — ages 8–12



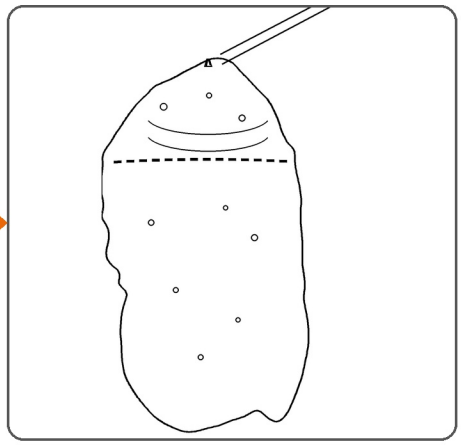
1 Egg

laid on native milkweed



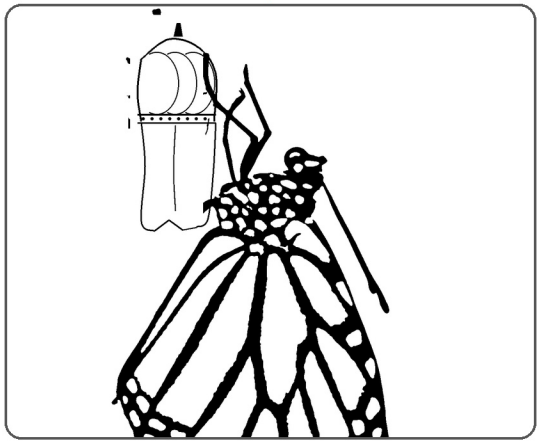
2 Caterpillar

instar: one of five growth stages between molts



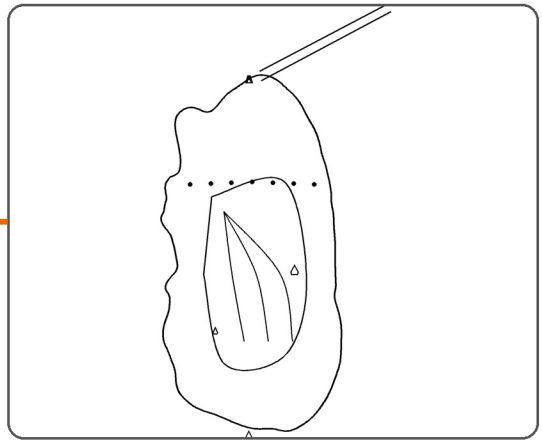
3 Chrysalis

pupa: the transformation stage



5 Butterfly

adult: wings dry, proboscis zipped together



4 Chrysalis Turns Clear

eclosion is hours away when wings show through

…and the butterfly lays eggs on milkweed — the cycle begins again!

Monarch Science

Anatomy, field notes & a brain challenge — ages 8–12



Field Notes

1. **A monarch caterpillar sheds its skin 5 times as it grows.**
2. **The migration generation flies up to 2,500 miles to Mexico and lives 6–8 months. Summer generations live only 2–5 weeks.**
3. **Monarchs taste with their feet.**
4. **The bright orange color warns predators: “I taste terrible!” Monarch bodies store bitter milkweed toxins.**
5. **Only native milkweed counts as food — monarch caterpillars eat nothing else.**

Challenge!

1. **What is the pupa stage called?**
2. **How many times does the caterpillar molt?**
3. **Why don't predators eat monarchs?**

Answers: 1) the chrysalis 2) five times 3) milkweed toxins make it taste terrible — orange warns predators