

Monarch

Name _____

Did You Know?

It is easy to spot a monarch by its orange and black wings. Monarchs are found in more places than any other butterfly. Monarchs can fly farther than other butterflies. Each year monarchs migrate long distances. Monarchs lay their eggs on milkweed plants. If there is no milkweed, there will be no monarchs.



Male monarchs have a dark spot on their hind wings.

Monarch Facts

Monarchs go through a life cycle. The eggs are laid on the underside of a milkweed leaf. A caterpillar is growing inside the egg.

The caterpillar emerges and eats its eggshell. Then it eats milkweed. It grows and grows and splits its skin. It molts or sheds its skin four times. Then it forms a pupa. The chrysalis protects the pupa. It is bright green with gold dots. The change from caterpillar to adult monarch is called metamorphosis. After metamorphosis there is no longer a caterpillar. There is a beautiful butterfly.



The caterpillar hangs upside down and molts for the last time. A hard case forms around its body. Metamorphosis is about to begin.