

MONARCHS ON A MISSION

MONARCH LIFE CYCLE.

FROM EGG TO CATERPILLAR TO CHRYSALIS TO ADULT, MONARCHS HAVE HABITAT NEEDS AT EACH STAGE.

ADULT

The primary job of the adult is to mate and lay eggs. They can often be seen eating nectar from a wide variety of flowers.



EGG

The eggs are always laid on milkweed to provide food for caterpillars immediately upon hatching.



CATERPILLAR

Monarch caterpillars are eating machines. They eat constantly taking few breaks to rest. They shed their skin five times creating five growth stages or instars.



EMERGENCE

When the adult butterfly emerges, its wings are still "wet" and must dry before it can fly. During this "drying" period, the butterfly is vulnerable to predators.



CHRYSALIS

After a caterpillar has completed its growing, it transforms into a pupa called a chrysalis. During this stage, the adult wings and other adult organs develop.



CATERPILLAR

Monarch caterpillars eat only milkweed. Because of this, the chemicals in the milkweed - cardenolides - are found in both the caterpillar and adult butterfly. These chemicals are poisonous and provide a great defense against hungry predators!



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