

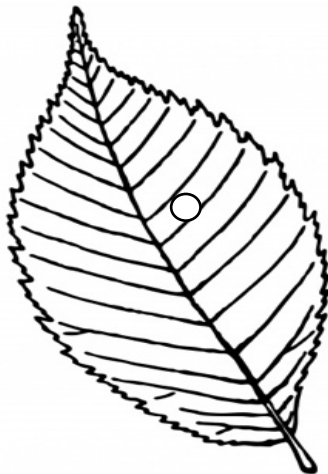


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Nature Center**
Nature in your hands

Make a Monarch Life Cycle



It's summer here at Baltimore Woods, and summer means that you might see some monarch butterflies around the preserve. Monarch butterflies have four different stages in their life cycle: the egg, the larva, the pupa, and the adult butterfly. We can create a mobile to display all four stages of the monarch life cycle!



Phase One: Egg

The monarch butterfly starts as an egg that is laid on a milkweed leaf by an adult butterfly. The egg is very small and usually hatches within four days.

Phase Two: Caterpillar

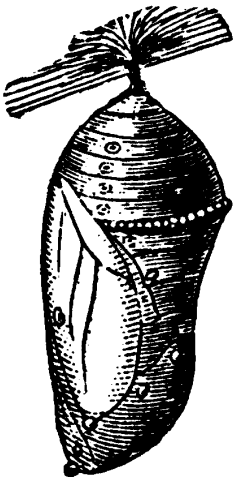
The second phase in a monarch life cycle is a caterpillar (or larva). The caterpillar eats as much as it possibly can for 10-14 days until it grows very large and is ready for the next stage.





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Monarch Life Cycle Cont'd

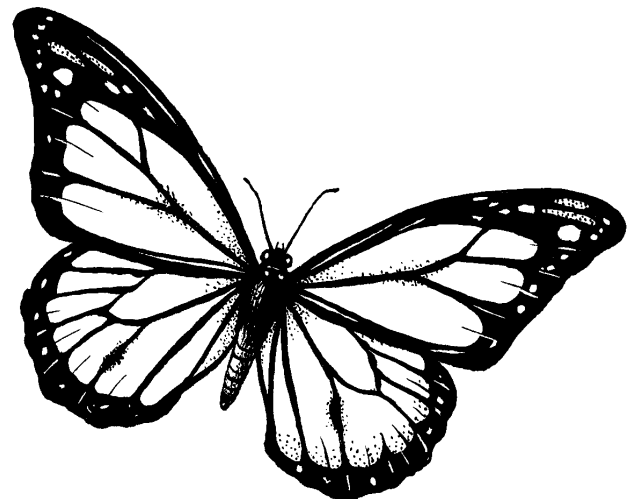


Phase Three: Pupa inside of a Chrysalis

Next, the caterpillar creates a silk casing around itself called a chrysalis. This is known as the pupa stage. The pupa stays inside of its chrysalis for 10-14 days and undergoes a process known as metamorphosis where it changes from a caterpillar to a butterfly.

Phase Four: Adult Butterfly

After the monarch emerges from the chrysalis, it is a fully formed adult monarch butterfly. The butterfly can now start the cycle all over again by laying eggs on milkweed plants.



Let's make a life cycle mobile!



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Monarch Mobile Instructions

Materials

- 2 sticks or wooden dowels
- Yarn
- Tape
- Markers
- Paper

Instructions

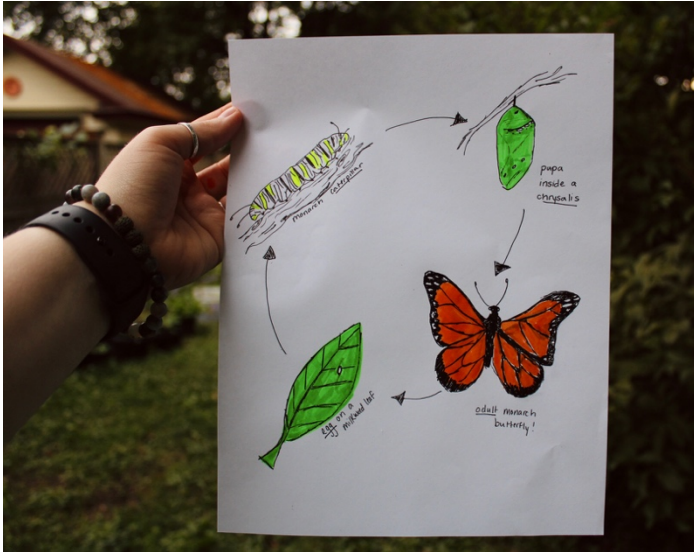
1. Start by using your yarn or string to tie the two sticks together in an “X” formation. Wrap the yarn around the center of the two sticks until they are securely tied together.





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Monarch Mobile Instructions Cont'd



2. Draw each of the four stages of the monarch life cycle or cut out the pictures on the previous page and color them in.
3. Label each phase of the life cycle.
4. Cut four pieces of yarn at varying lengths.
5. Tape each stage of the life cycle to the end of one of the pieces of yarn.

6. Tie each of the four pieces of yarn with the life cycle stages each of the four ends of the sticks.
7. Attach another piece of string the center of the two sticks and use it to hang up your mobile and watch each of the four stages of the monarch life cycle!

