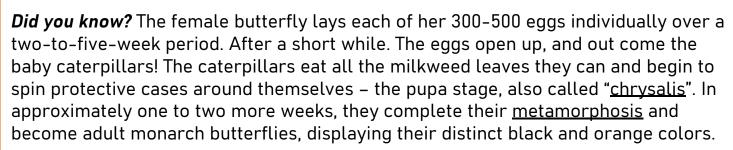
MONARCH BUTTERFLY

Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae

Danaus plexippus

Did you know? Monarch butterflies are poisonous. Their toxins come from eating milkweed when they were in the caterpillar stage.

Did you know? Monarch butterflies have been added to the endangered species list.





This is the caterpillar eating the poisonous milkweed plant! It is getting ready for the <u>chrysalis</u> stage.



This photo shows the Monarch Butterfly completing its metamorphosis and becoming an adult with bright orange and black colors!

After 10-14 days, the <u>chrysalis</u> becomes see-through, and inside, you can spot the new butterfly. It hangs upside down for a few hours to allow its wings to dry before it's ready to take off in the sky!



Credits:

Photos: PBS (https://www.pbs.org/newshour/science/nearly-billion-monarch-butterflies-vanished-since-1990), butterfly on a flower, Flickr (https://www.flickr.com/photos/lastingimages/10484286795), caterpillar on milkweed plant, Britannica (https://www.britannica.com/animal/monarch-butterfly), metamorphosis of butterfly.

Facts: Source 1 (https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/invertebrates/facts/monarch-butterfly); Source 2 (https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/invertebrates/facts/monarch-butterfly#:~:text=The%20monarch%20butterfly%20is%20one,and%20Mexico%20for%20the%20winter.); Source 3 (https://www.britannica.com/animal/monarch-butterfly)

Sheet created by: Megan Botts, September 2023