

Magical Monarchs

A Virtual Lesson to Enjoy at Home

Read Aloud!

From egg to caterpillar, from chrysalis to butterfly...monarchs are so magical! They lay their eggs on the leaves of milkweed plants. Yellow, white and black-striped monarch caterpillars start munching as soon as they hatch. By eating milkweed, they become poisonous to other animals. The bright orange and black colors of their butterflies are a warning to predators: don't eat me!



See monarch butterflies in
flight at

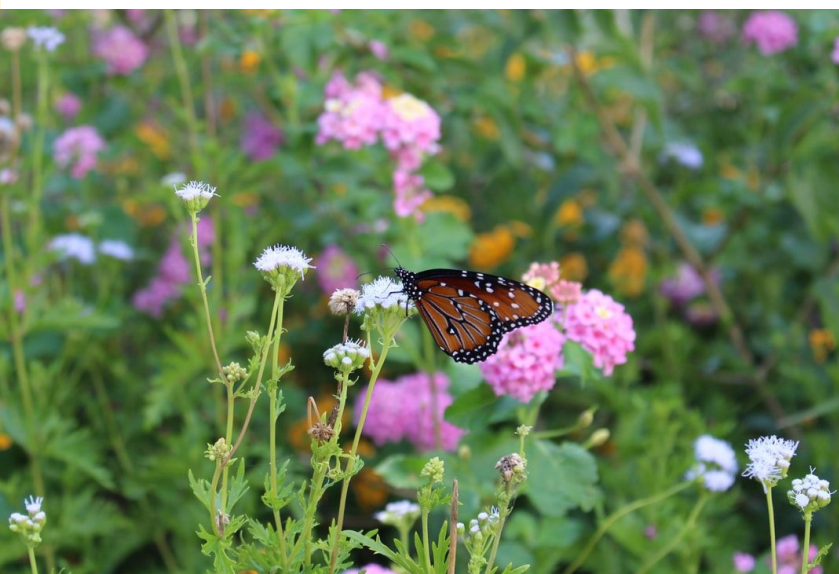
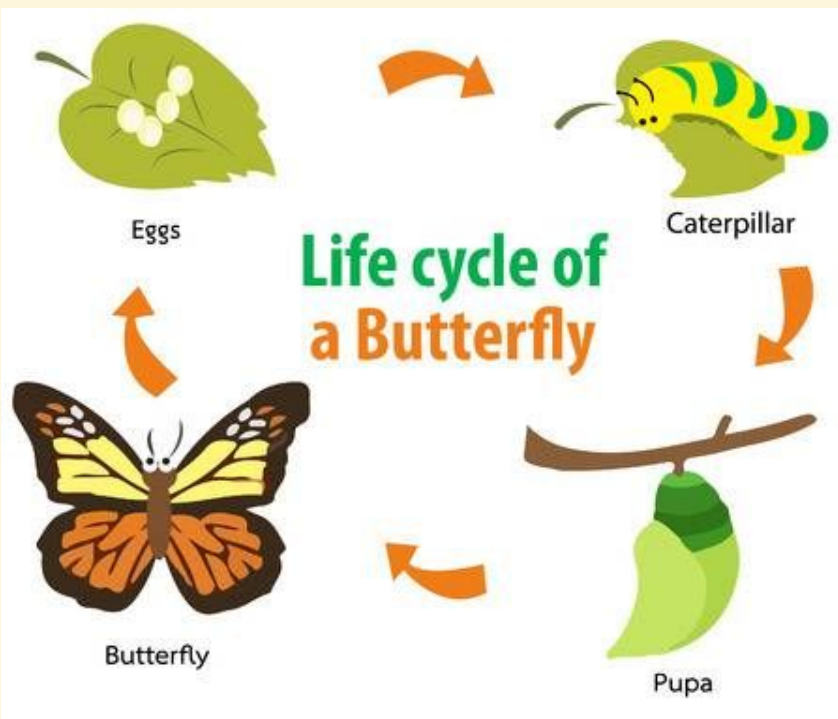
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?
v=1b87rwtXGzA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1b87rwtXGzA)

Each fall, millions of monarch butterflies leave their homes in Canada and the United States to fly south for the winter. Many settle in the forests and mountains of Mexico, over 2000 miles from their summer homes. It's amazing that such tiny insects can travel so far! Can you track their journey on a map?

**LOOK FOR MONARCH BUTTERFLIES AT ADKINS ARBORETUM
IN NANCY'S MEADOW AND THE SOUTH MEADOW, WHERE
MILKWEED AND OTHER MEADOW FLOWERS GROW.**

Let's Pretend!

Act out a butterfly's life cycle! Curl up like an egg, wiggle like a caterpillar, wrap a blanket "chrysalis" around yourself, and fly like a butterfly!



Make It!

Make a monarch mask and learn more about butterflies by visiting:

[xerces.org/publications/education-resources/monarch-mask](https://www.xerces.org/publications/education-resources/monarch-mask)

Say and Do!

*Butterfly, butterfly turn around,
Butterfly, butterfly touch the ground.
Butterfly, butterfly fly so high,
Butterfly, butterfly touch the sky.*

Created by Jenny Houghton on behalf of



ADKINS ARBORETUM