

1.52 Monarch butterfly life cycle

<p>Topic: Animals Subtopic: Insects Activity type/skill: Information transfer Literacy focus: Speaking Genre: Information reports</p>
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Objective

- Speak formally about a familiar subject.
- Provide an environment where repetition of vocabulary and subject matter can lead to fluency.

What you need

- Student worksheet (see next page)

What to do

1. Ask students to read the text about the life cycle of monarch butterflies on the first page of the student worksheet.
2. Talk about what they know about monarch butterflies and life cycles. Make a life cycle diagram on the board. (You could look at Activity 1.38 as a reminder.)
3. Study the illustrations on the next page of the student worksheet and get students to describe what is in them.
4. Get one student to choose a sentence beside a picture and read it and then point to a classmate. That classmate must tell something else about that part of the life cycle, choose another sentence to read and then point to another student and so on. For example:
 - Tai: 'The larva makes a pupa around itself. Lin, tell me more.'
 - Lin: 'The pupae hang on swan plants. The female insect lays an egg. Joel, tell me more.'...
5. Support the students by referring them to the text or pictures for more information. Reformulate attempts that are not easily understood, and have the students repeat your version.

Extending the activity

- Use this technique with pictures of the life cycles of other insects.

The life cycle of monarch butterflies

There are four stages in the life of a monarch butterfly. These big changes in the butterfly's life are called **metamorphoses**.

Eggs

The female monarch butterflies lay their eggs on the underside of the leaves of swan plants. The eggs are round, white and very small. After three to five days the eggs hatch into larvae.



Butterfly larvae are called caterpillars.

Larvae (caterpillars)

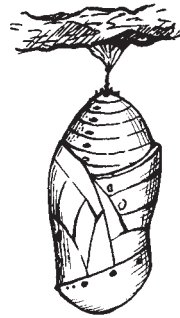
The very small larvae look like little worms. They breathe through holes in the sides of their bodies.



The larvae (caterpillars) eat the leaves of the swan plant and grow. They moult several times as they grow. When they are large enough to change into pupae they join their bodies to the swan plant. Then they hang head down from the swan plant.

Pupae

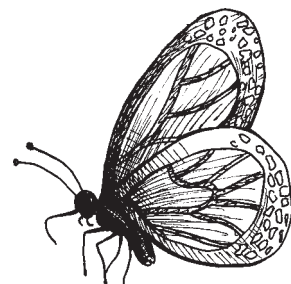
While they hang on the swan plant their outsides get hard. They turn a pale green colour. Inside the pupae the larvae change into butterflies.



Adults

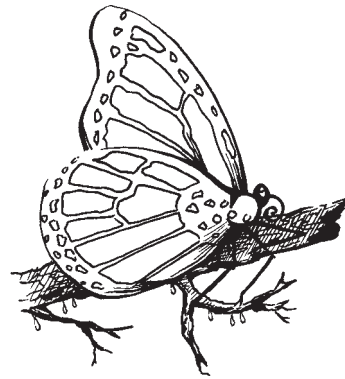
After about two weeks, the adult monarch butterflies come out of the pupae. At first their wings are wet but they soon dry. Then they can fly.

The adult monarch butterflies live for about six months.



Tell me more

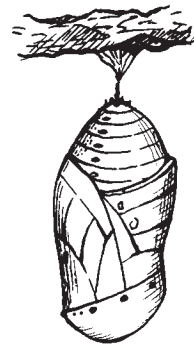
The female insect lays an egg



A larva (caterpillar) breaks out of the egg



The larva makes a pupa around itself



The adult breaks out of the pupa

