

BUTTERFLY LIFE CYCLE

Monarch (*Danaus plexippus*) Timeline

3 - 5 DAYS

The Egg

A tiny, oval-shaped egg is laid on the underside of a milkweed leaf.

Sketch: Egg

9 - 14 DAYS

The Larva (Caterpillar)

Continuous feeding on host leaves. Molts through five growth stages (instars).

Sketch: Larva

8 - 15 DAYS

The Pupa (Chrysalis)

Internal transformation occurs within a hardened protective shell.

Sketch: Chrysalis

2 - 6 WEEKS

The Adult

Emergence (eclosion). Focus shifts to reproduction and migration.

Sketch: Butterfly