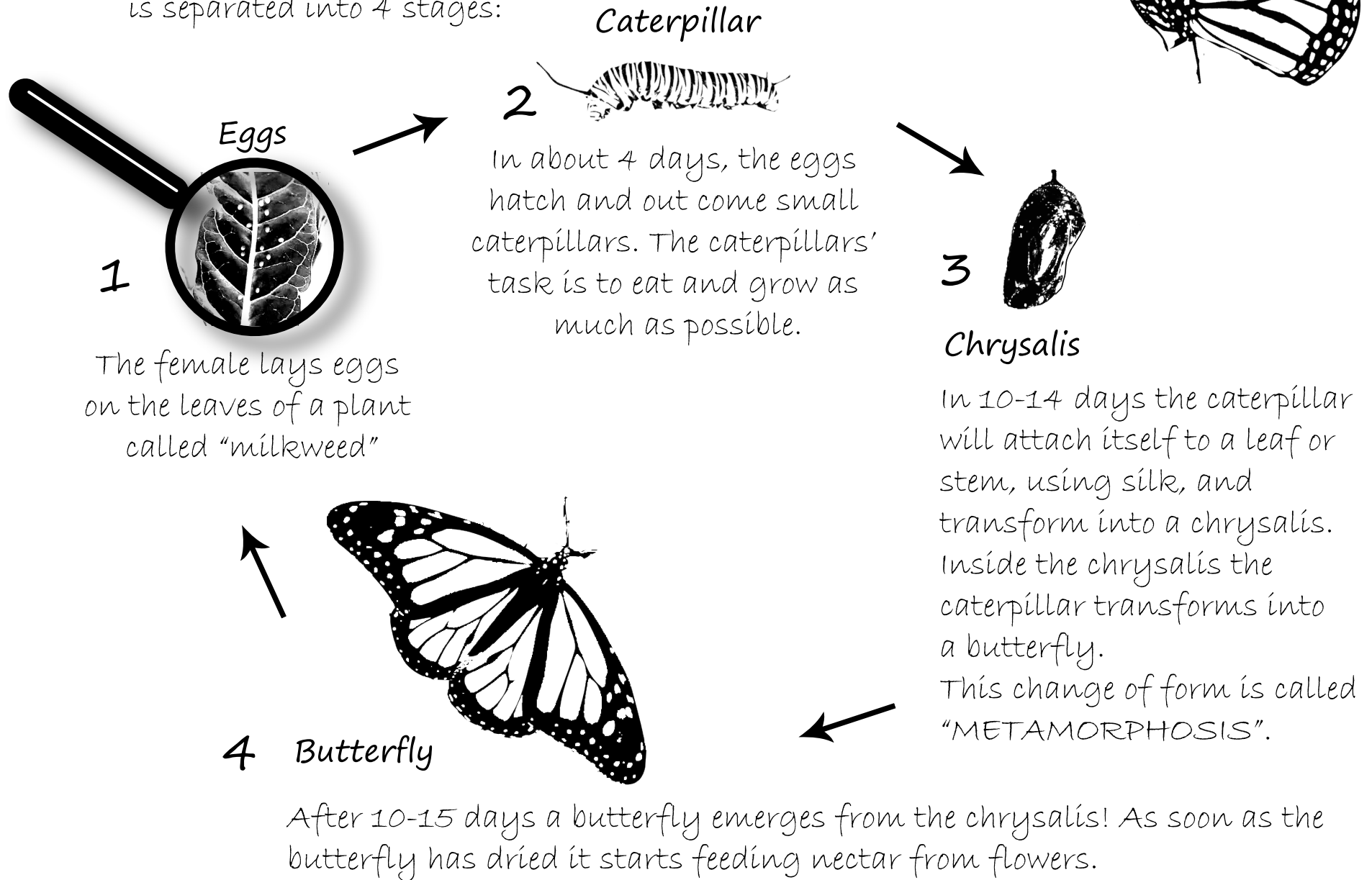


# Monarch Butterfly -the "king" of butterflies -Life Cycle

A butterfly life cycle is separated into 4 stages:



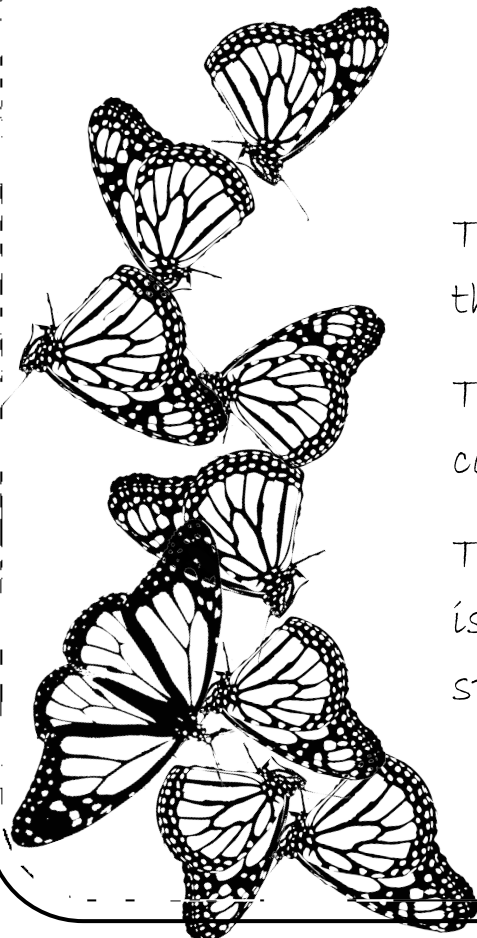
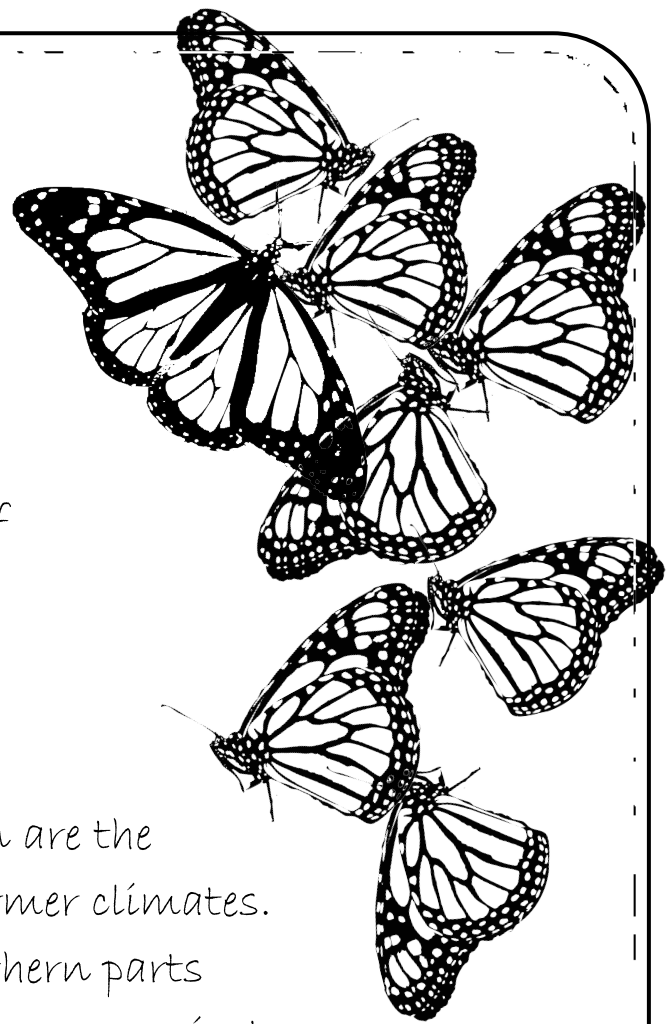
## The Monarch Butterfly -generations and migration

Each year 4 generations of Monarch butterflies go through this life cycle.

First, second and third generations of butterflies live 2-6 weeks.



Butterflies from the fourth generation are the ones who migrate south or west to warmer climates. They end up in Mexico or certain southern parts of California, where they hang in large groups in trees.



These butterflies live 6-8 months and die after they come back north to lay their eggs.

The reason for moving south is because they can't survive the cold weather in the north.

The reason for moving back north is that there is no food for the caterpillars where the butterflies spend the winters.



## Some other cool facts about the Monarch Butterfly

~The Monarch Butterfly is the only insect that migrates up to 2 500 miles to hibernate in warmer climate. Pretty impressive for an insect weighing only 0.25-0.75 grams!



~They fly 12-25 miles per hour.

~They return to the very same trees every year, even if it's not the same butterflies as the year before!

~The butterflies drink nectar from various kinds of flowers, while the caterpillars ONLY eat milkweed plants.

~The "straw" the butterflies use to suck the nectar from flowers is called "proboscis".

~The milkweed contains poisonous chemicals that make the caterpillar poisonous to animals such as birds, lizards, mice and frogs.



~One caterpillar can eat a whole milkweed leaf in 5 minutes!

~A caterpillar can gain up to 2 700 times their original body weight.

~The male Monarch butterfly has thinner black veins and one small dark dot on each hind wing. The female has thicker veins on the wings and no dots.

## Monarch Butterflies - Questions

1) Why do you think caterpillars eat so much? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2) How does eating the milkweed plant help the caterpillar?

\_\_\_\_\_

3) What do butterflies eat? \_\_\_\_\_

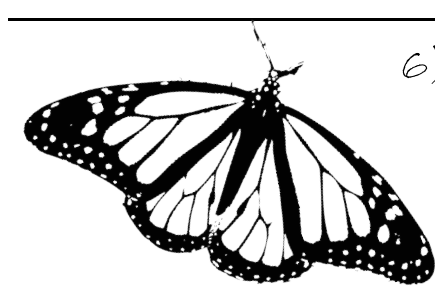
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4) Where do the Monarch butterflies migrate? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5) What do you think would happen if they didn't migrate?

\_\_\_\_\_



6) Is this a female or male Monarch butterfly?

\_\_\_\_\_

7) What do you think could be a threat to the Monarch butterflies? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7) How can we help the butterflies? Discuss \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_