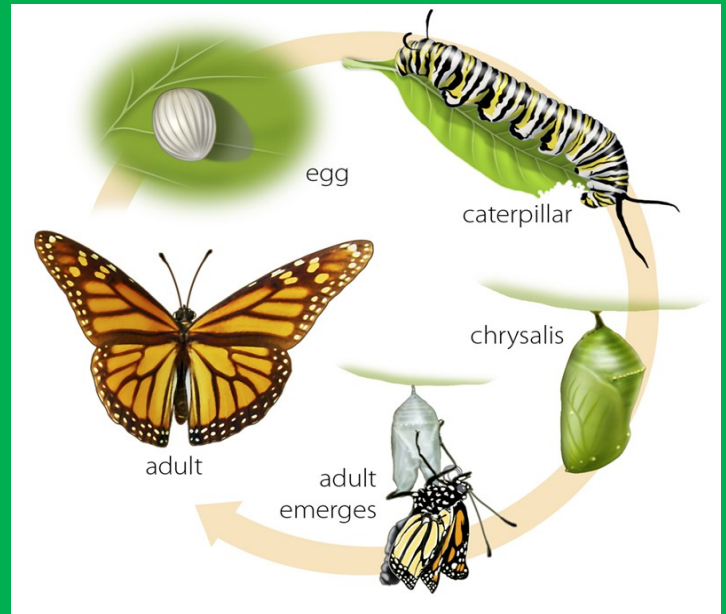


MONARCH BUTTERFLY / KAHUKU

Egg or Ovum: Creamy coloured. Eggs take 5-7 days to hatch. The egg shell is eaten by the new caterpillar—its first meal!

Caterpillar or Larvae: Black, white and yellow stripes. They live for 2-3 weeks. Caterpillars moult their skin about 5 times before they turn into a chrysalis. The caterpillars eat swan plants (or milk-weed) which are actually poisonous if consumed in large quantities. Caterpillars are able to store the poison in their bodies without being effected. Wasps, soldier bugs and praying mantis are the main predators of the caterpillar.



Chrysalis: Jade in colour with a band of gold spots at the head. They hang upside down and attach with a strong black silky thread. They will stay there for between 1-3 weeks. If the temperature drops below 5 degrees the chrysalis will die so if possible bring it inside or to a warmer location. A chrysalis that is lying on the ground and one that is dented will likely become diseased and may deform if it hatches. When a butterfly is getting ready to hatch the chrysalis changes colour and becomes clear enabling you too see the colours of the butterflies wings.



Butterfly: Orange, black and white in colour. Monarchs take a couple of minutes to hatch from the chrysalis and will then sit there for an hour or two while its wings spread, harden and dry. The black lines in its wings are its veins. The veins get pumped with fluid when it emerges from the chrysalis and that's what makes the wings spread out to their full shape. They have a 10cm wingspan and flap their wings between 300 and 720 times per minute. They can fly as fast as 40km per hour. Monarch butterflies can lay up to 250 eggs per day and many more in some instances!

Male butterflies have a black spot on the inside surface of their hind wing but females don't

