

Interesting Facts

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- **Class:** Insect
- **Size:** The monarch butterfly can be 4 inches (10 cm) from wing to wing.
- **Food:** Caterpillars eat milkweed. Butterflies eat nectar.
- **Appearance:** The caterpillar is white, yellow, and black. The monarch butterfly is orange with black veins. It has white dots on the wings.

Monarch Butterfly

Danaus plexippus

In the summer the monarch butterfly lives in the northern United States and southern Canada. In the fall they fly to where it is warm. Monarch butterflies spend the winter in California or Mexico. Sometimes they fly over 2000 miles (3200 km) to get



A monarch egg on a plant leaf.



there. In the spring, the butterflies fly north again.

On the way back, the female lays her eggs. She lays one egg at a time on a plant called milkweed. She dies after laying the eggs. The eggs hatch after a few days.



The butterfly fly 80 miles (128 km) per day when migrating.

A baby butterfly is a caterpillar. The caterpillar eats a lot of food. It makes a sack called a chrysalis. It goes into the sack. When it comes out it is a butterfly. The butterfly then flies north.

The butterfly does not have many enemies. This is because when it is a caterpillar it eats milkweed.

This plant puts a poison in its Use Animal Fact Sheets, encyclopedias, books, or the Internet to research your animal.

