

MOLLY THE MONARCH

YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN. JOHN 3:7

I'm going to guess that you like butterflies. I don't know anyone who does not. They're delicate, beautiful, and the story of how they come into existence is truly remarkable!

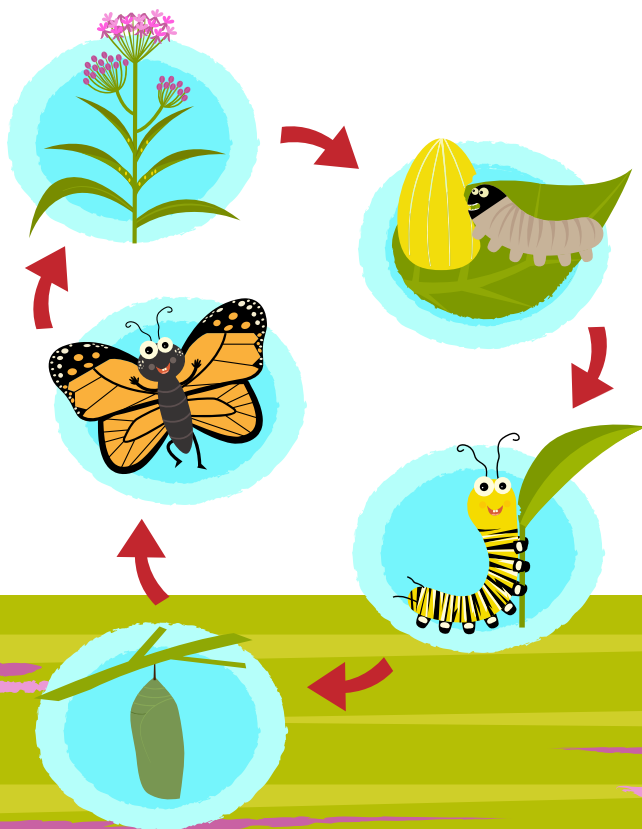
Molly the monarch begins her life as an egg, roughly the size of the period at the end of this sentence. But about 33 days later, Molly is a beautiful, colorful, carefree butterfly!

It takes Molly four to six days to emerge from her egg, and when she does, she's hungry! Since milkweed is the only item on Molly's menu, she devours an entire milkweed leaf in less than five minutes. Her enormous appetite transforms her from being barely visible into a two-inch long, fully-grown caterpillar in just 12 days! With this kind of appetite, it is understandable that Molly has to change her wardrobe. She now weighs 2,700 times more than she weighed when she hatched and sheds her skin five times, much like a snake.

With her belly full, Molly leaves her milkweed restaurant and finds a place to take a beauty nap. A protective casing called a chrysalis is her last wardrobe change. This is where she hangs out and waits for a little less than two weeks when she emerges as a beautiful butterfly!

As Christians, our journey with Jesus is similar. It is by feeding on God's Word that you experience the growth that will transform you into the image of Jesus!

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17).



MONARCH BUTTERFLY FACTS:

- Monarchs are endangered.
- Monarchs have a wingspan of 3.5–4 inches.
- They fly at speeds of 12 to 25 miles an hour.
- They migrate between 1,200 to 2,500 miles.
- The male monarch has a black spot on the inside surface of his hind wing.
- Their wings flap between 300–720 times a minute.
- Monarchs store milkweed toxins as protection against predators.

