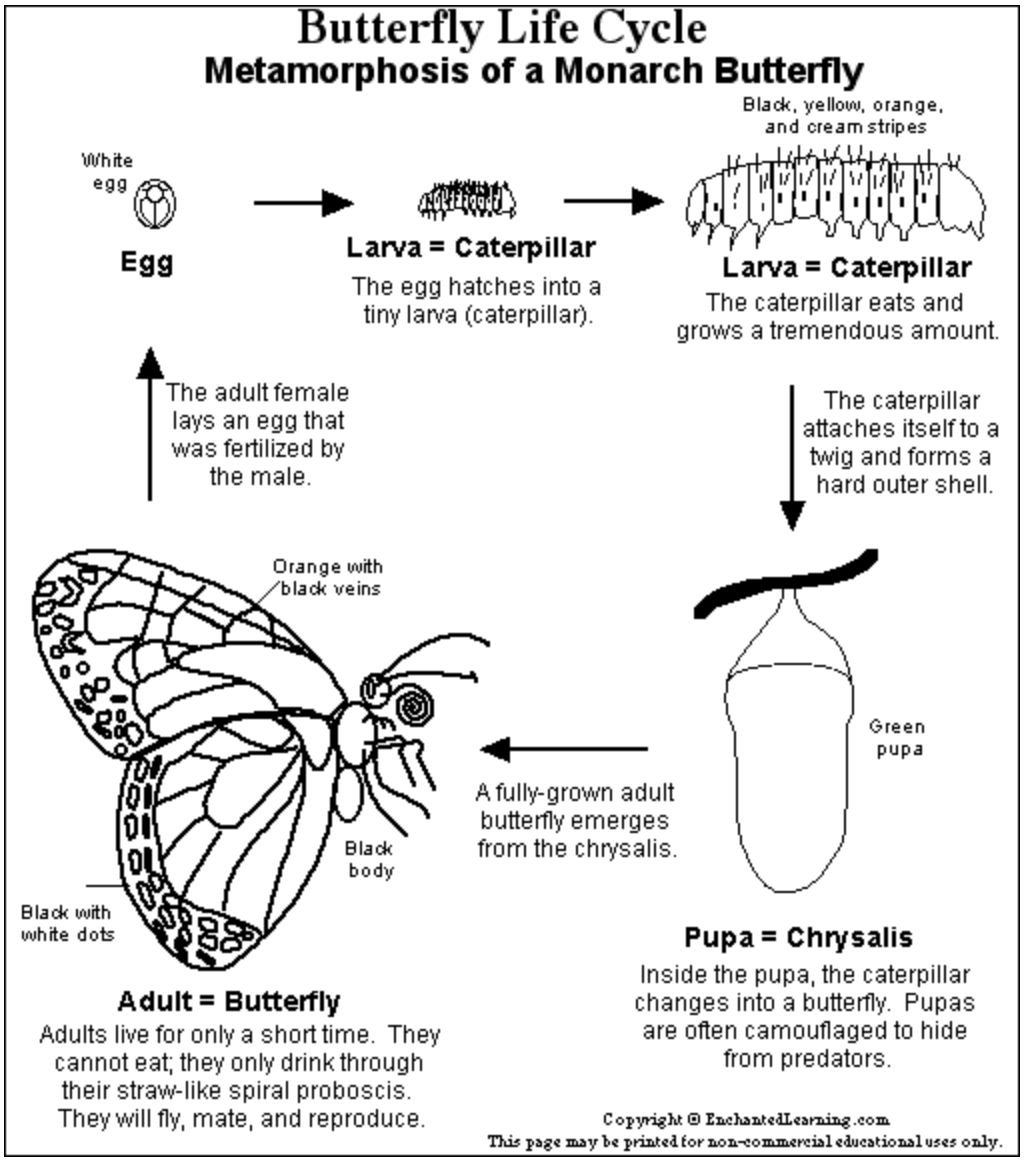
Butterfly Life Cycle
Metamorphosis of a Monarch Butterfly
White egg
Egg
Larva = Caterpillar
The egg hatches into a tiny larva (caterpillar).
Black, yellow, orange, and cream stripes
Larva = Caterpillar
The caterpillar eats and grows a tremendous amount.
The caterpillar attaches itself to a twig and forms a hard outer shell.
Green pupa
Pupa = Chrysalis
Inside the pupa, the caterpillar changes into a butterfly. Pupas are often camouflaged to hide from predators.
A fully-grown adult butterfly emerges from the chrysalis.
Orange with black veins
Black body
Black with white dots
Adult = Butterfly
Adults live for only a short time. They cannot eat; they only drink through their straw-like spiral proboscis. They will fly, mate, and reproduce.
The adult female lays an egg that was fertilized by the male.
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