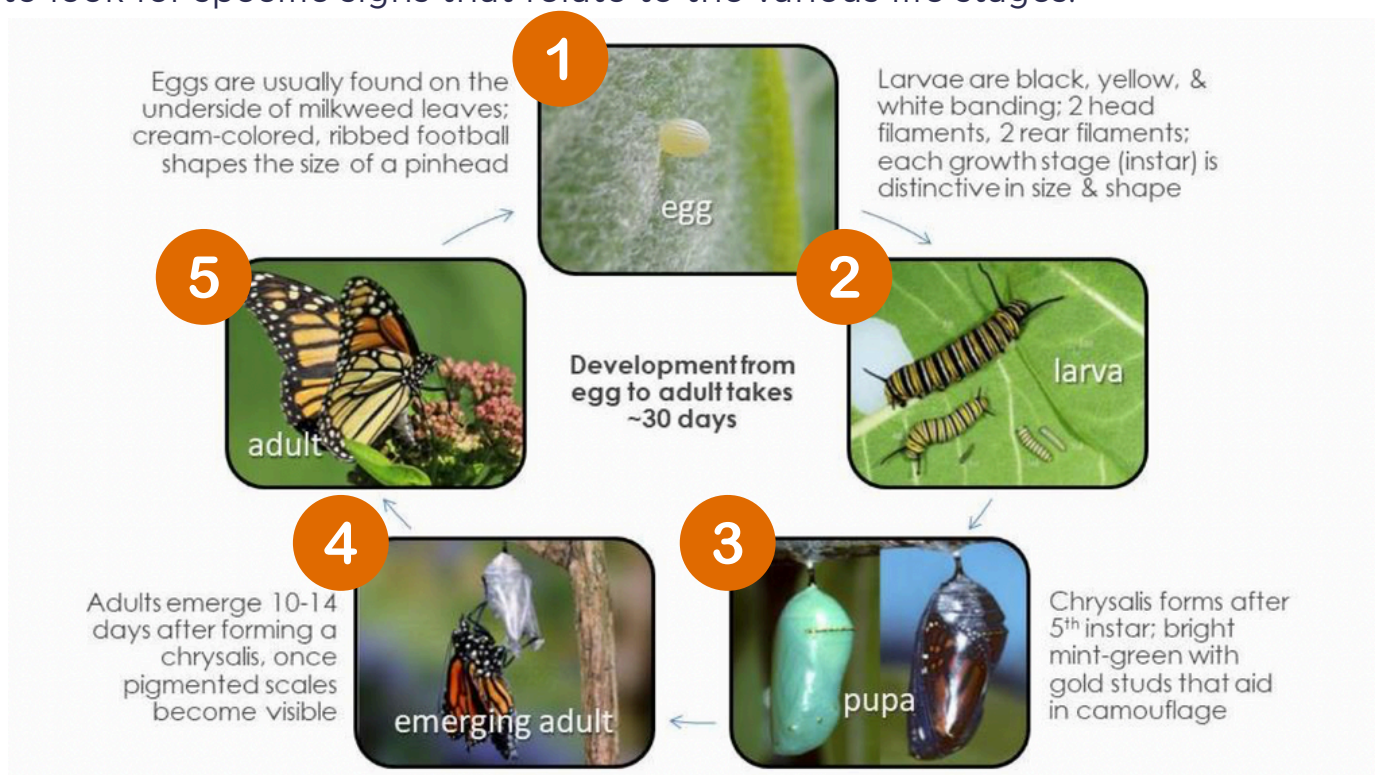


MONARCH ID BASICS



Life stages

When checking milkweed plants for signs of monarch activity, it is helpful to look for specific signs that relate to the various life stages:



Where to look?

- Eggs are often found on the underside of the leaf on new milkweed growth, often the tiniest plants at the edges of a patch.
- Caterpillars are often found on milkweed leaves with damage (bites!)
- Chrysalises may be found on milkweed branches or nearby structures. They are very delicate, so be extremely careful when looking for them!



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BUMBLEBEE ID BASICS



Defining features

Bumblebee species (of the genus *Bombus*) share some defining features:



1

Bumble bees have furry, rounded bodies, large black eyes, and bent antennae.

2

They fly fairly slowly, buzz the flowers they visit, climb among blooms on the same flower stalk, and are quite docile – they rarely sting unless defending their nest.



3

They can have black, buff, yellow, red/orange, or white body segments, and brown wings. They collect pollen on leg 'baskets' and can fly in low light and cool temps.



How do I know I'm not seeing a different insect?

- Look-alikes include hoverflies, honeybees, and carpenter bees.
- Look for the key signs of a bumblebee: four wings (not two), heart-shaped face (not round), fuzzy abdomen (not smooth), and stout body (not long).
- When in doubt, check our pollinator resources below!



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