

Monarch Life Cycle Bracelet Craft
From Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge

Materials Needed:

- Pipe Cleaners (8-12 inches long)
- Beads
 - Egg: Cream-colored faceted rounds (or barrel)
 - Head: Black barrel
 - Body: White and yellow barrel
 - Chrysalis: Green spaghetti or tube (three green barrels also work)
 - Monarch: Orange butterfly
- Scissors
- 6 bowls or dishes for beads
- Photo of life cycle
- Photo of milkweed
- Photo of some native flower

Instructions:

1. Place beads in bowls and spread out across table(s), leaving enough room for many children to assemble at the same time.
2. Have children start by selecting a pipe cleaner. Any color may be used.
3. Place one egg bead on the pipe cleaner several inches from end. It doesn't matter which side of the pipe cleaner you start from, just use the same side for all the beads. Tell the children that the egg will hatch in 3-5 days.
4. Ask the children what our egg hatches into. A caterpillar! We'll start with his head by adding one black bead.
5. What color is our caterpillar's body? Yellow and white! This color helps warn predators not to eat the caterpillar! Add one white and one yellow bead for the body. The order does not matter.
6. Now that our caterpillar is complete, ask the children what it should eat to grow bigger. Milkweed! Tell the children that monarch caterpillars must eat milkweed for about two weeks.
7. What does our caterpillar do once it grows big enough? Becomes a chrysalis! Add the green bead to represent the chrysalis. Ask the children what our caterpillar is doing in the chrysalis. Preparing to become a butterfly!
8. After eight to fifteen days, our caterpillar has undergone metamorphosis—it has changed into a butterfly! Add an orange butterfly bead.
9. We now have a monarch butterfly! What will it need to eat before it can lay eggs? Nectar! It gets nectar from flowers, so flowers are important for butterflies. Show the picture of the flower (flower-shaped beads are also an option).
10. Finally, size the bracelet to the child's wrist. Twist two or three times to close, and trim excess. Bend pointy ends away from skin.
11. Thank participants for making a bracelet. Ask them to show off their bracelet and share the monarch life cycle with someone they know.



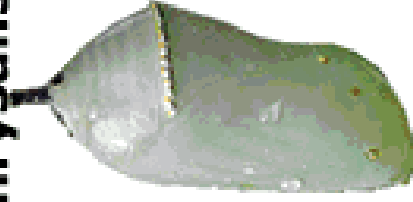
Egg



Larva



Chrysalis



Adult

