

**Animal
Diaries**
Life Cycles

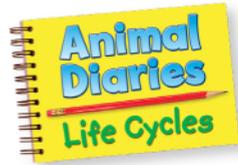


A Butterfly's Life



by Ellen Lawrence

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Ellen Lawrence

Consultants:

Suzy Gazlay, MA

Recipient, Presidential Award for Excellence in Science Teaching

Susan Borkin, MS

Head of Life Sciences; Curator of Insects, Invertebrate
Zoology Department, Milwaukee Public Museum

Kimberly Brenneman, PhD

National Institute for Early Education Research, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey

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Name: Sam

Date: July 31

Fluttering Butterflies

Today, I saw two monarch butterflies in my backyard.

They were fluttering around each other.

Mom said they were a male and a female getting ready to **mate**.

After they've mated, the female butterfly will fly off and find a place to lay her eggs.

I hope she lays some in our yard!



The monarch butterfly in this picture is life-size. How big is it? Use a ruler to measure its wings.



legs

Butterflies are insects. Like all insects, they have six legs, three main body parts, and a hard covering called an exoskeleton.

Date: August 1

Hunting for Eggs

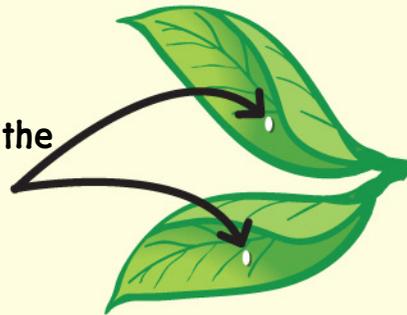
This morning I found a butterfly egg!

It was stuck underneath the leaf of a plant in our yard.

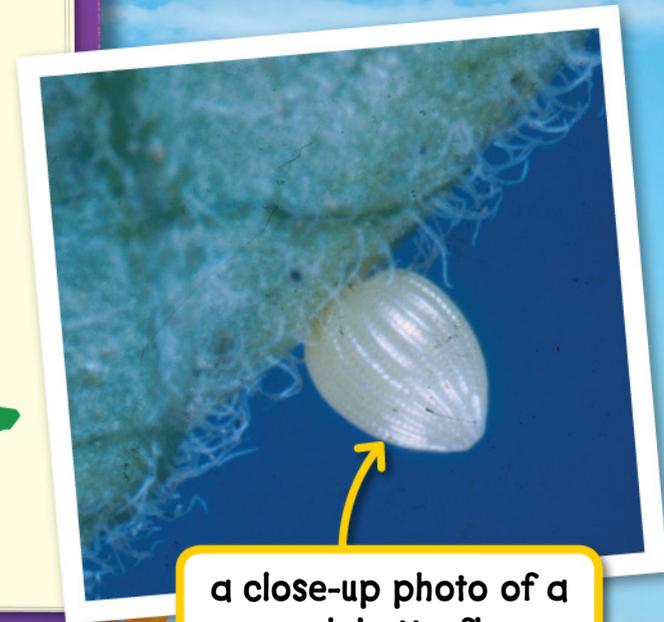
Mom told me monarch butterflies lay their tiny eggs under the leaves of milkweed plants.

I kept looking under milkweed leaves and found 50 eggs in our yard!

In real life, the eggs are the size of these white spots.



female laying eggs



a close-up photo of a monarch butterfly egg



**After
mating, a female
monarch butterfly
lays about 400 eggs.
She lays one egg
at a time.**

milkweed leaf

egg

**In spring and summer, try
looking for butterfly eggs
underneath leaves.**

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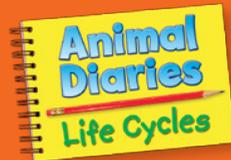
Learn More Online

To learn more about monarch butterflies, visit www.bearportpublishing.com/AnimalDiaries

About the Author

Ellen Lawrence lives in the United Kingdom. Her favorite books to write are those about animals. In fact, the first book Ellen bought for herself, when she was six years old, was the story of a gorilla named Patty Cake that was born in New York's Central Park Zoo.

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A Butterfly's Life

Sam watched two monarch butterflies flutter in the air. His mom said they were getting ready to mate so the female could lay eggs. Sam hoped they would leave some eggs in his yard. When he found one the next day, he decided to watch the egg every day until it changed into one of the orange butterflies. Sam kept a diary of what he saw. Read it—you will be amazed!

A Butterfly's Life **A Frog's Life** **A Kangaroo's Life**
A Snake's Life **A Spider's Life**



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