

Monarch Butterfly Chrysalis



History

The chrysalis is the pupa stage in a butterfly's development. Inside the chrysalis the insect is changing into a butterfly. The process takes about ten days.

CHRYSALIS CARE

The chrysalis should remain suspended in a vertical position. Protect it from extreme heat by keeping it in a house or shady spot outside.

When the butterfly is fully formed, the chrysalis darkens until it looks black. The walls are so thin the orange wings can be seen.

In a school or work setting, someone should take the chrysalis home over a weekend in case it emerges during that time.

BUTTERFLY EMERGENCE

About a day after the chrysalis turns black, it will split open and the butterfly will roll out. The process is fast and easily missed. Until the adult is ready to fly, it is important that it stay in a suspended position, with wings down.

The new wings are small and crumpled. Within an hour, the wings significantly stretch and straighten. After several hours, the butterfly releases a red-orange liquid which will appear at the bottom of the container.



Release

The butterfly should not be released for at least four hours after emergence from the chrysalis. It will begin to flap its wings and let go of its perch. Fluttering around in its container is a good indication it is ready for release.

Be sure to release the butterfly outside, but never at night or when rain is falling.

If you need to help the butterfly out of the container, avoid grabbing the wings. Instead, slide a finger under its body so the legs can grip your finger.

If the butterfly is having trouble flying, encourage it to grasp a flower or leaf.

Eventually, the butterfly will fly. Be prepared for it to disappear into the sky within seconds.

If the butterfly is docile, it can be photographed on gentle children.

