

Lesson 4: Keeping A Monarch Calendar

Key Concepts:

- Making and recording detailed observations is an essential part of a scientist's responsibilities.
- A calendar is one way to record and present observations over time.

Skills:

- Make detailed observations
- Make illustrations of observations on a calendar.

Materials:

- Individual caterpillars to observe
- *Weekly Calendar* (student handout page)
- Wall-size calendar, available in most stationery stores
- Art supplies

Objective

Create a calendar based on students' observations of all stages of the monarch life cycle. Detailed illustrations of observations will serve as the basis of the calendar, though written words may be used to accompany and explain the pictures. The calendar can then be used to describe the life cycle of individual monarchs.

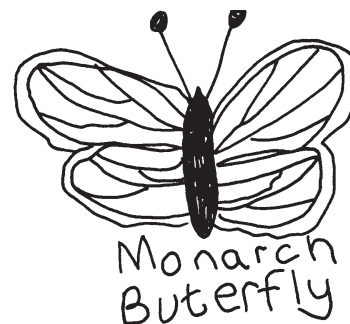
Background

In this lesson, students will practice data collection by recording their observations on a calendar. They can keep a weekly calendar, recording descriptions of their caterpillars each day of the week, and they can keep a monthly class calendar, recording a summary of the development stages of their classroom larvae. This approach to data collection enables the student to see patterns of development over time.



Procedure

1. Keep caterpillars in individual containers on student desks so that individual development can be tracked.
2. Have children draw or describe "their" caterpillars each day. One way to do this is to give each student a copy of the *Weekly Calendar*. Students should record when their caterpillar pupates by drawing a picture of a pupa on the calendar.
3. Record student data on a class calendar. Make an entry for each caterpillar, when it forms a "J", when it pupates, and when the adult butterfly emerges. You could use a separate calendar for each caterpillar if you keep track of individuals, or show all individuals on one calendar. We have included an example of a class calendar tracking the development of 5 monarchs.





WEEKLY CALENDAR

“Caterpillar to Butterfly”




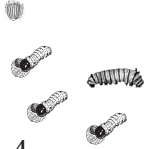
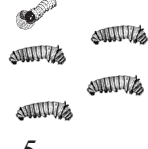


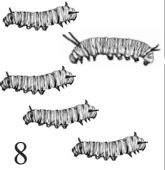


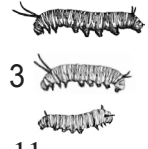
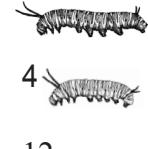
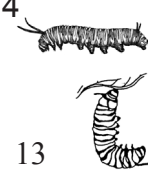
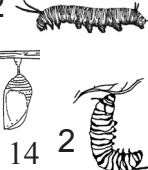








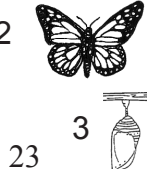
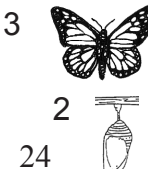
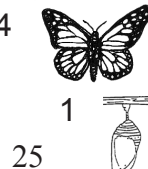



Name _____ Caterpillar _____

Week of _____

Monday	Thursday
Tuesday	Friday
Wednesday	Saturday

Sample Class Calendar for Five Monarch Larvae

September						
1 	2 	3 	4 	5 	6 	7 
8 	9 	10 	11 	12 	13 	14 
15 	16 	17 	18 	19 	20 	21 
22 	23 	24 	25 	26 	27	28
29	30					