The eggs hatch. Larvae eat the milkweed leaves for about 2 weeks as they develop into full grown caterpillars.

LIFE CYCLE of the MONARCH BUTTERFLY

The caterpillars attach themselves head down to a convenient twig. They shed their outer skin and begin the transformation into a pupa (or chrysalis), a process which is completed in a matter of hours.

Adult butterflies lay eggs under milkweed plant leaves.

After about two weeks, the butterfly emerges from the chrysalis.

The butterfly waits until its wings stiffen and dry before it flies away to start its life cycle all over again.