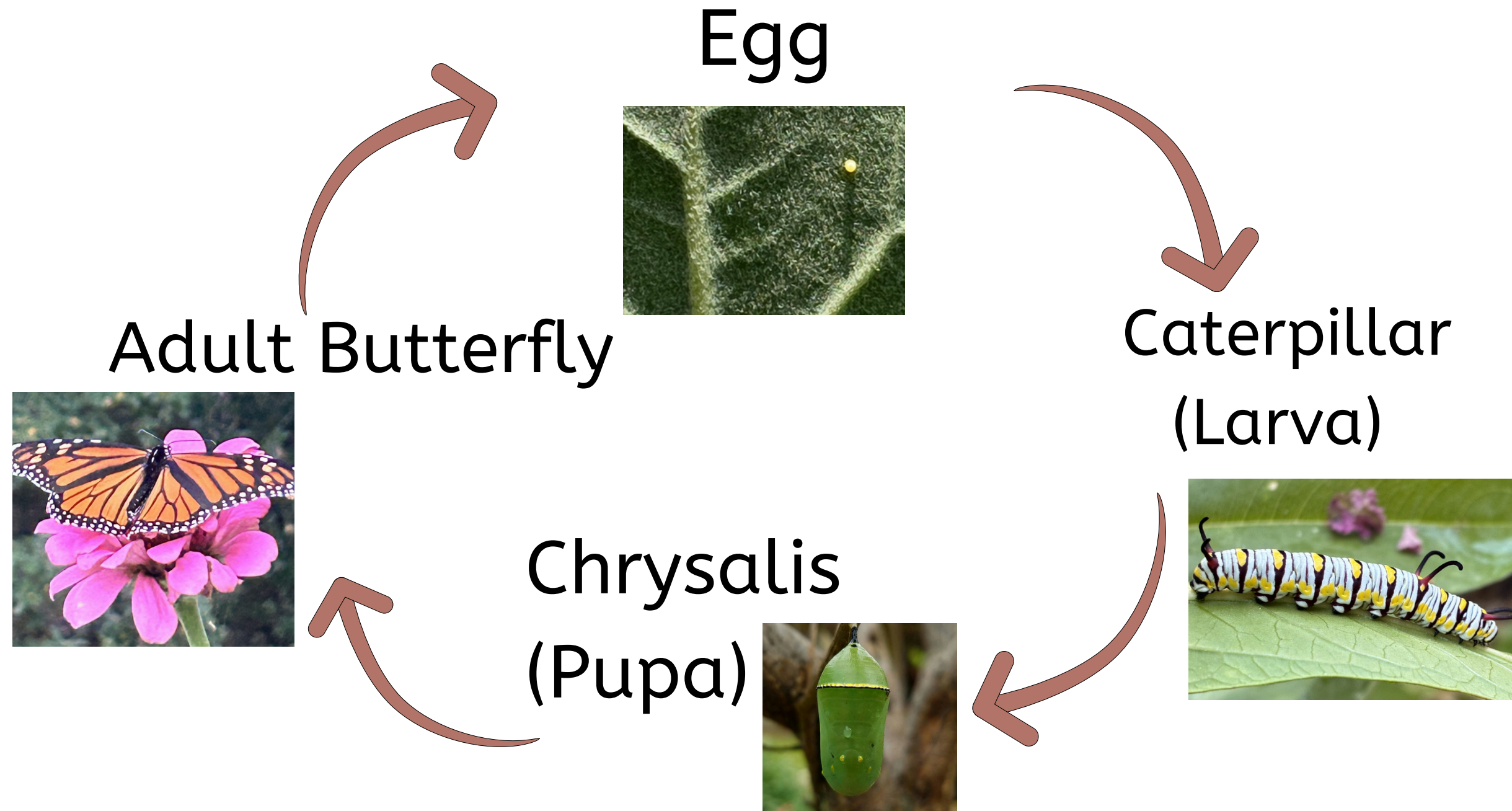


# Life Cycle of a Monarch Butterfly



# Life Cycle of a Monarch



# Stage 1: EGG

Mama monarch butterfly lays her tiny EGGS only on milkweed leaves. The tiny eggs are about the size of the head of a pin. Mama lays her eggs on the underside of leaves, where they are hidden from predators.



# Stage 2: CATERPILLARS

After about 4 days, EGGS become CATERPILLARS.

Monarch caterpillars feed only on milkweed leaves. Each caterpillar will eat 10 times his body weight in one day. He will continue to grow larger and larger. Monarch caterpillars are beautifully colored with bright green, white, yellow, and black stripes.



# Stage 3: CHRYSALISES

After about a week, CATERPILLARS become CHRYSALISES, where metamorphosis occurs. The big, fat caterpillar will crawl away from the milkweed plant, sometimes as far as 20 feet. Metamorphosis is the process by which organisms undergo a transformation from juvenile to adult.



# Stage 4: BUTTERFLY

After about 8 days, inside the chrysalis, metamorphosis transforms the caterpillar into a monarch butterfly. The CHRYSALIS opens and a fully adult MONARCH BUTTERFLY emerges!



# Fun Fact

If butterflies get too cold, their wings won't work, so they need to find sunny spots to stay warm.



# Want to see Monarchs in person?

- Come to Lake Granbury Master Gardeners Romancing the Monarch Festival.  
1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in October  
1:30 - 4:00p.m.  
Live monarch releases at 2pm and 3pm



- **FREE EVENT!!!**  
1410 W Pearl St  
Granbury, TX 76048
- Live butterfly release
- face painting
- pollinator plant education
- monarch tagging

