

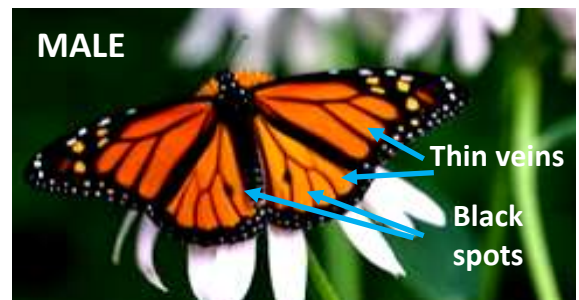
# Monarch Butterfly Puppet

All Ages

The Monarch butterfly is famous for its long migration. From eastern Canada they fly about 3,800 km to Mexico for the winter. In the spring, as the days grow longer, they begin the return journey. It may take 4 or 5 generations of monarchs before they reach Canada in early summer. You can make your own Monarch butterfly to fly around your neighbourhood by using the template on the next page.

## How to Make a Monarch Butterfly Puppet

- 1 - Print the template on plain paper.
- 2 - Colour the monarch. Remember to leave the white spots along the edges of the wings. To make a girl (female) butterfly make the black veins on the wings thicker (see the picture). For a boy (male) butterfly draw a black spot on each bottom wing as pictured.
- 3 - Cut out your butterfly and a band for your finger.
- 4 - Wrap the finger band around your finger to make a loose fitting ring and glue.
- 5 - Glue the ring to center of the bottom (reverse side) of the butterfly.
- 6 - Slip your butterfly on your finger. Get ready to fly!



## How to Make a Monarch Caterpillar Puppet

**Step 1** - Print the caterpillar template on plain paper.

**Step 2** - Colour the caterpillar. The Monarch's colourful pattern makes it easy to identify—and that's important. The bright colours warn predators that Monarchs taste bad and are poisonous. The poison comes from the Milkweed plant they eat. Monarchs have evolved to tolerate the poison which is stored in their bodies.

**Step 3** - Cut out your caterpillar.



**Step 4**- Form a finger slot by gently folding the caterpillar in half lengthwise, without creasing, and cutting along the 2 cut lines. (Do not cut all the way through). This forms a finger band. Slip the band under your index finger with the caterpillar covering the top of your finger.

OR You can wrap



your index finger with pipe cleaners and add some eyes.



**TIP:** The number of Monarchs in eastern Canada has declined by 80% in the past 30 years. The main cause is the disappearance of milkweed, the only plant the caterpillars can eat. You can help Monarchs survive by planting milkweed in your garden.

For more information visit <https://journeynorth.org/monarchs> or <https://monarchnation.ca/>

Canada has 3 reserves dedicated to protecting Monarch butterflies; Long Point National Wildlife Area, Point Pelee National Park, and Prince Edward Point National Wildlife Area. Join a National Flight of the Monarch event in your area and celebrate the Monarch!

# Monarch Butterfly Puppet Template

## Supplies:

- Plain paper
- Crayons, pencil crayons, markers, or paint
- Scissors
- Glue

## Steps: Butterfly

1. Colour template
2. Cut out butterfly and finger band
3. Wrap finger band comfortably around your index finger and glue.
4. Glue ring to centre bottom (reverse side)
5. Slip butterfly onto index finger and fly.



Cut line →  
Finger Band →  
Cut line →



## Steps: Caterpillar

1. Colour template
2. Cut out caterpillar
3. Cut along 2 finger band lines.
4. Slip caterpillar on index finger with finger band under finger.

Form a ring by wrapping a finger band comfortably around index finger. Glue ends.

Glue ring in the centre of underside of butterfly.



Finger Bands

