

Monarch Butterfly Lifecycle Quadruple Triorama

7 & Up

This interesting, hands-on, 3D project is loads of fun to create. Explore the lifecycle of the Monarch butterfly, then showcase what you have discovered in a series of trioramas. Our template, page 2, provides a great starting point for your creative efforts.

Monarch butterflies, like all insects, begin life as a tiny egg. A larva emerges from the egg. When ready, the larva forms a pupa. The adult insect emerges from the pupa. This is called **complete metamorphosis** - 4 completely different forms or stages in the lifecycle. Some insects, like dragonflies, have 3 stages - egg, larva (or nymph) and adult. They skip the pupa stage. We call this **incomplete metamorphosis**.

Take time to learn about each stage of the Monarch butterfly's life so you can create an accurate model. For example, Where does the female butterfly lay her eggs? Does she lay them 1 at a time or in a cluster. What sort of plants do the caterpillars eat? Do the pupae stay in that form over the winter? How long do the adults live?

Supplies:

- Template (page 2), 1 for each stage of life
- Blank paper
- Crayons, coloured paper, paints - art supplies
- Scissors
- Glue, clear tape



Steps:

1. On the template, draw and colour the 2 panels for the background and the 1 panel for the ground. You can include plants, birds, and animals that live in the Monarch butterfly's habitat.
2. Draw, colour and cut out butterflies, caterpillars, milkweed leaves and so on. You can download our **Monarch Butterfly Puppet** template for characters to include in your scenes.
3. Fold the triorama as per the template. Glue (or tape) to form a pyramid, tuck the instructions under the "ground".
4. Position your characters and props, glue or tape in place.
5. Label each stage and fill in the information you think is important.
6. Glue or tape the backs together to form a 4-sided masterpiece. Add a title and your done!

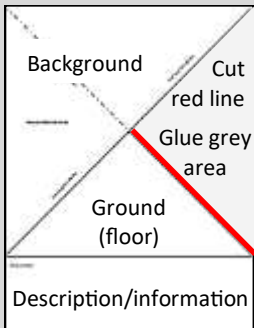
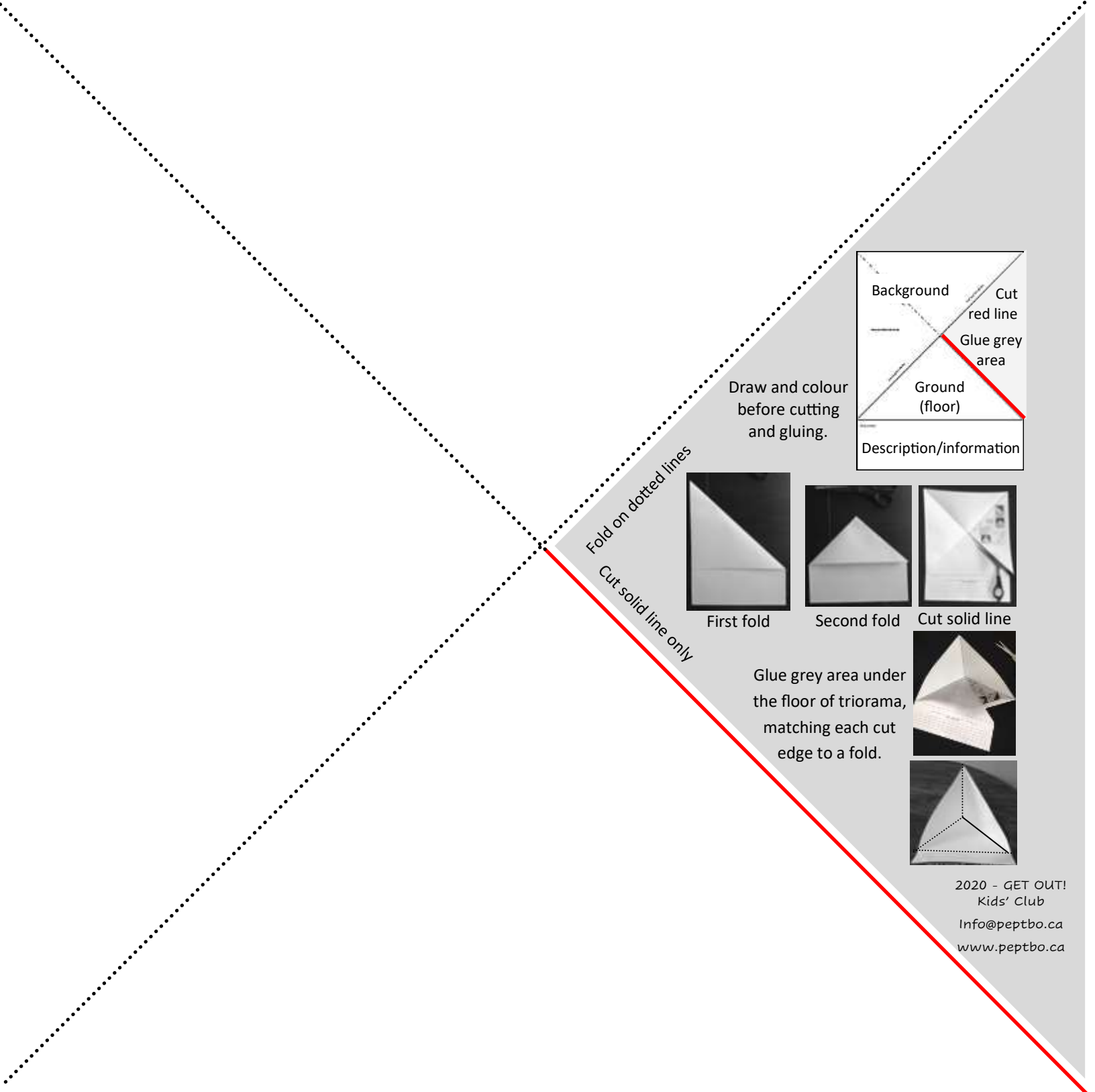


Idea: Tell a story about a butterfly or other critter. Make 4 trioramas to create 4 scenes from your tale. Write your story in the description area for each scene.

Visit your favorite nearby nature place each season. Make a triorama to record the changes for each season. How do the plants and wildlife change?



<https://askabiologist.asu.edu/monarch-life-cycle>



Draw and colour before cutting and gluing.

Fold on dotted lines

Cut solid line only



First fold

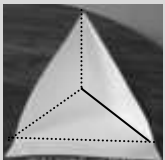


Second fold



Cut solid line

Glue grey area under the floor of triorama, matching each cut edge to a fold.



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Kids' Club
Info@peptbo.ca
www.peptbo.ca

(lifecyle stage)
