



# How do insects grow and change? *The making of a monarch butterfly*

Australian curriculum springboard

Science and  
Technology

Stages 1-2  
Years 1-4



*Amazing life cycle of a monarch butterfly*  
by dscottprod

## Outcome: *Living World*

A student

- describes external features, changes in and growth of living things [ST1-10LW](#)

[NSW syllabus for the Australian curriculum Science K-10 \(incorporating Science and Technology K-6\) syllabus](#)

## Content:

Living things grow, change and have offspring similar to themselves [ACSSU030](#)

Students:

- observe and record some of the changes a common plant or animal shows during its life, using appropriate digital technology, eg a camera
- compare the appearance of adult living things with their offspring eg trees, insects, birds, reptiles, cats or humans.

Advice, implementation support and resources for NSW DEC teachers: [AC - NSW syllabuses for the Australian Curriculum](#) (NSW DEC intranet).

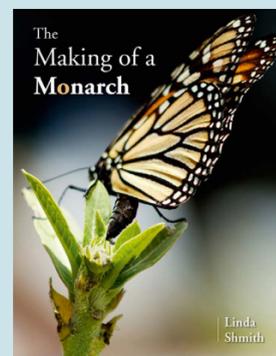
## Review:

### *The making of a monarch butterfly: photographs and text*

SHMITH, Linda

Linda Shmith, SA, 2013

ISBN 9780646594415 [595.78]



Featuring amazing close-up photographs of the life stages of the monarch butterfly, the exquisite detail in this book shows the small changes of each stage in this invertebrate's life. The photographs follow the transformation from an egg, to a caterpillar, a chrysalis, and finally, a butterfly. Presented in the style of a photo journal,

the concise, pertinent text brings the photographs to life and highlights the life within each stage of growth. Included is a life cycle diagram and visual glossary which enhance understanding. The book strongly supports the Science and Technology strand, [Living World](#). [Teaching ideas](#) and [resources](#) are available from the author's website.

G. Braiding ([Scan 34.1](#))

**USER LEVEL:** Stage 1 Stage 2

**KLA:** AC; Science

**SYLLABUS:** Science K-10 (SciTech K-6)

**SCIS 1612043** Paper \$24.99

## Teaching and learning opportunities:

- Watch a time lapse video of a butterfly's metamorphosis.
- Use modelling clay to create 3D models of each stage of the monarch butterfly's life. Label and display.
- Use [ShowMe](#) to draw and retell the monarch butterfly's life stages.
- Look for evidence of caterpillar and insect life stages in the school grounds, eg cocoons, eggs, caterpillars, cicada casings. Photograph and log sightings on [BowerBird](#).
- Collect images of insect life stages. Group and label in [PicCollage](#).
- Keep silkworm caterpillars or mealworms in the classroom and compile a photographic record of their life stages. Create a digital record with [Book creator](#) using large close-up annotated photographs.
- Dip a net in the school frog pond for aquatic larvae of insects such as mosquitoes and dragonflies.
- Enact the life stages of the monarch butterfly or other insect using dance or drama.
- Design a habitat in which a butterfly would survive.
- Contact the zoo and get involved in their invertebrate program.

## Professional resources:

- [Bugwise](#), Australian Museum
- [Investigating invertebrates](#) (iTunesU course), Field of Mars Environmental Education Centre

## Resources:

- [Amazing life cycle of a monarch butterfly](#) by dscottprod
- [Animals life cycle - insects and arachnids](#) app, \$2.49
- [The art of science](#) app
- [BowerBird](#)
- [Life cycles: image gallery](#), Museum of Victoria
- [Phasmids](#) (multitouch book), Field of Mars Environmental Education Centre
- [Stick insect family album](#), Museum of Victoria

## Composing:

- [Book creator](#) app, \$6.49
- [PhotoStory](#) app
- [PicCollage](#) app
- [ShowMe](#) app
- [SonicPics](#) app, \$1.99