

Child's Name _____ **Age** _____

Butterfly Life Cycle A butterfly develops through four life stages in a process called complete metamorphosis. The adult female lays eggs on the appropriate host plant. A tiny caterpillar (larva) hatches from the egg. As the caterpillar grows it molts (sheds) its skin. The stages between molts are called instars. In its final instar the caterpillar forms a chrysalis (pupa). Within the chrysalis the caterpillar transforms and then emerges as an adult butterfly. Then the cycle begins again. The adult butterfly lives an average of two to three weeks.

Learn More <https://tinyurl.com/2p9hecvu> <https://tinyurl.com/vrvxuxt6>

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Western Honey Bee

Apis mellifera



Image: Shutterstock

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Western Honey Bee Some people may not be aware that the western honey bee (also called the European honey bee) was brought to the United States by European settlers. The western honey bee is our most important pollinator and is the most common of the 7–12 species of honey bees worldwide. The western honey bee was one of the first domesticated insects, and it is the primary species maintained by beekeepers to this day for both its honey production and pollination activities.

Learn More <https://tinyurl.com/4w56r66x> <https://tinyurl.com/fakszvdv>

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Hummingbirds

Trochilidae



Image: Shutterstock

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Hummingbirds These arial acrobats can fly up to 30 miles in an hour and are the only birds that can fly backwards. They also can fly upside down as well as do sustained hovering (staying in one place during flight). Over 300 species of hummingbirds can be found from Southern Alaska to Tierra del Fuego. They are specialized for feeding on flower nectar, but all species also consume flying insects or spiders. Hummingbirds consume half their weight in sugar/nectar daily.

Learn More <https://tinyurl.com/4ums2kd2> <https://tinyurl.com/2p8t3auw>

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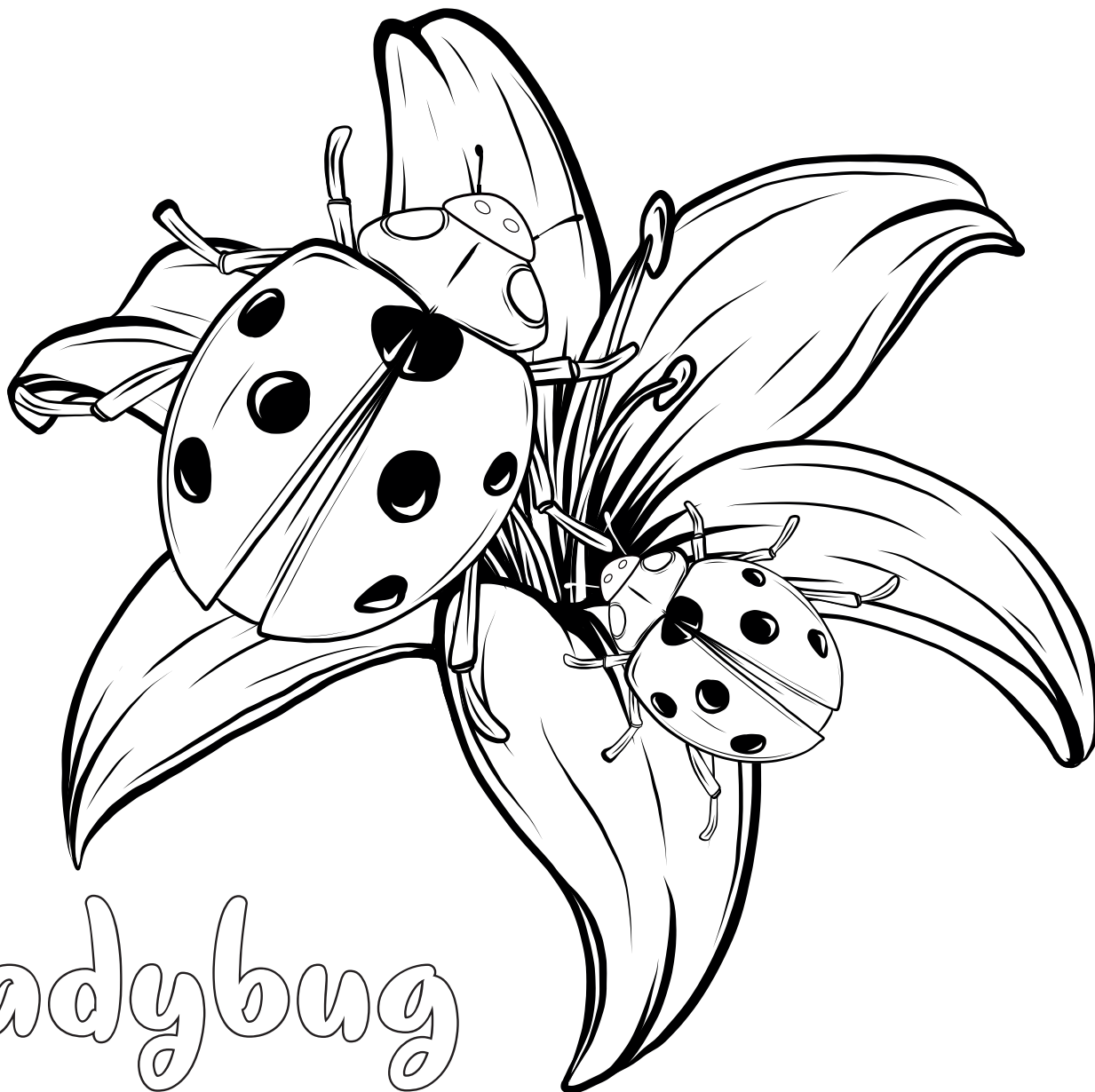


Image: Shutterstock

Ladybug

Coccinellidae

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Ladybugs are more properly called lady beetles because they are not true bugs. Lady beetles, ladybugs, or ladybird beetles are among best known beneficial predatory insects. Lady beetles eat all sorts of pests including aphids (an adult ladybug will eat as many as 50 aphids a day), scale, thrips, mealybugs and mites. In your desire to rid your garden of pests, don't make the mistake of killing the lady beetle's larvae! They look like small black alligators with orange stripes and eat as much or more as an adult lady beetle; a hatched larva will eat 400 aphids.

Learn More <https://tinyurl.com/2p8k4zpb> <https://tinyurl.com/ynj2fwe5>

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Praying Mantis

Mantis religiosa



Image: Shutterstock

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Praying Mantis This insect holds its front legs up in front of its head at rest, which makes it look like it's praying. Over 2,000 mantid species occur in the world, mostly in tropical and subtropical regions. At least nine mantid species occur in California. They commonly wait on flowers for flying insects to arrive, then reach out with their front legs and grab the prey. Their triangular head can rotate about 180 degrees and has large, bulging eyes.

Learn More <https://tinyurl.com/3jkusjpp>

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Monarch Butterfly

Danaus plexippus

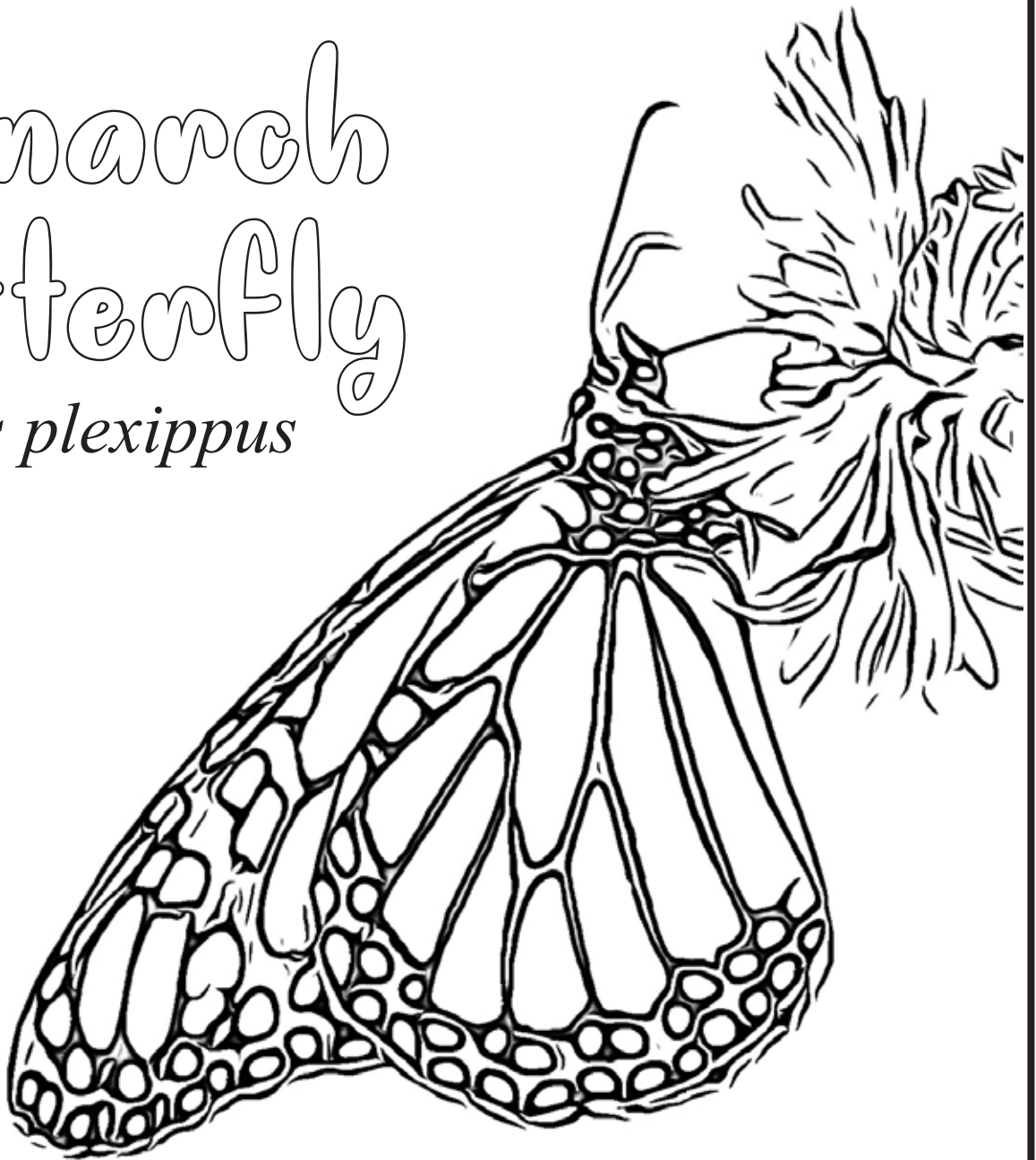


Image: Lisa Howard

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Monarch Butterfly Plant native milkweeds and other nectar-rich flowers to attract monarch adults. Adult monarchs depend on diverse nectar sources and are attracted to brightly-colored flowers. Native milkweeds support all stages of the monarch life cycle. Adults feed on milkweed nectar, lay eggs on milkweed, and the caterpillars are dependent on milkweed for their food source.

Learn More <https://tinyurl.com/5n6hxubu>

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Oak Tree

Quercus



Image: Shutterstock

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Oak Trees Seeking a field trip for 3rd – 5th grade students that is focused on California history? “Acorns to Oaks” is held from October through January at Tolay Lake Regional Park. This award-winning field trip engages students with the rich heritage and culture of the native communities in Sonoma County and presents the detailed knowledge of natural resources that early California tribes passed down through generations.

Learn More <https://tinyurl.com/5b48fymf> <https://tinyurl.com/ymt25rs4>

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California Poppy

Eschscholzia californica



Image: Shutterstock

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California Poppy The state flower of California is native to the Pacific slope of North America from Western Oregon to Baja California. The California poppy produces no nectar. Pollination is carried out mainly by bees and beetles that are attracted to the profusion of fragrant pollen. California poppies are easy to grow. Plant seeds shallowly in fall or early spring. Seeds will germinate after the first fall rains or when soil warms in the spring, depending on location.

Learn More <https://tinyurl.com/bdez8t8p> <https://tinyurl.com/45ympdt7>

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California Quail

Callipepla californica



Image: Shutterstock

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California Quail The California state bird lives mostly on the west coast in open woodlands, near streams, and in parks. They mainly feed on seeds, berries, and flowers, but also eat snails and small insects. Quail usually have one brood per year, but can have two broods in years with a good food supply. Their nests can contain as many as 28 eggs. These large clutches may be the result of females laying eggs in nests other than their own, a behavior known as “egg-dumping.”

Learn More: <https://tinyurl.com/jtwj6wyz>

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Red Wiggler Worms

Eisenia fetida



Image: Shutterstock

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Red Wiggler Worms The worms you buy from a worm farm or supplier are generally red wiggler worms or European nightcrawlers. But many worms are called composting worms. The red wiggler is best as it lives in the top 18 inches of the soil and eats half of its body weight each day in optimal conditions. These worms live just under the surface, ingesting soil along with decaying organic matter and leaving tunnels that carry oxygen to plant roots and improve drainage and the resulting castings (worm poop) provide nutrients to plants.

Learn More <https://tinyurl.com/589wkw8r>

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