

Magical
MONARCHS



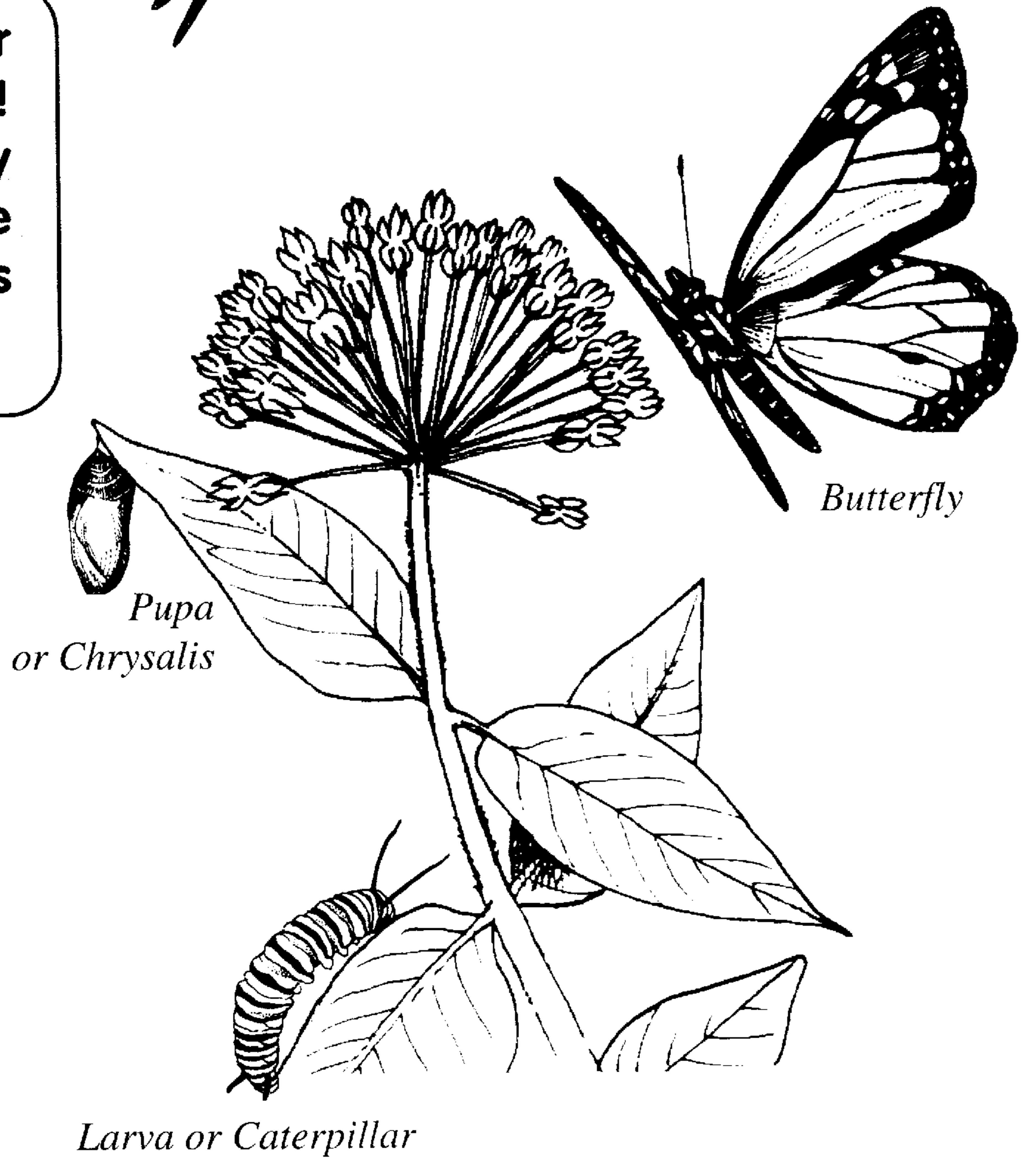
① ② ③

TAKE TO THE NATURE CENTRE TO BE STAMPED WHEN EACH LEVEL IS COMPLETED

It's time to forget your life as a Presqu'ile camper and become a Provincial Monarch Detective! Presqu'ile has many Monarchs, because they gather here in August and September before migrating. The park also has lots of the Monarch's favourite plant - Milkweed.

Level

1 Look for Milkweed plants in different areas around the park and examine them for Monarchs. Check the undersides of all the leaves and look for eggs, caterpillars and pupae. If you are lucky you may find some. The more plants you check, the better your chances! Try to look at 30 plants and record what you find on the opposite page. **Just look - do not remove eggs or caterpillars.** Monarch Detectives of the past say the best plants to check are the ones around the Campground and along the Newcastle Trail. Good luck!

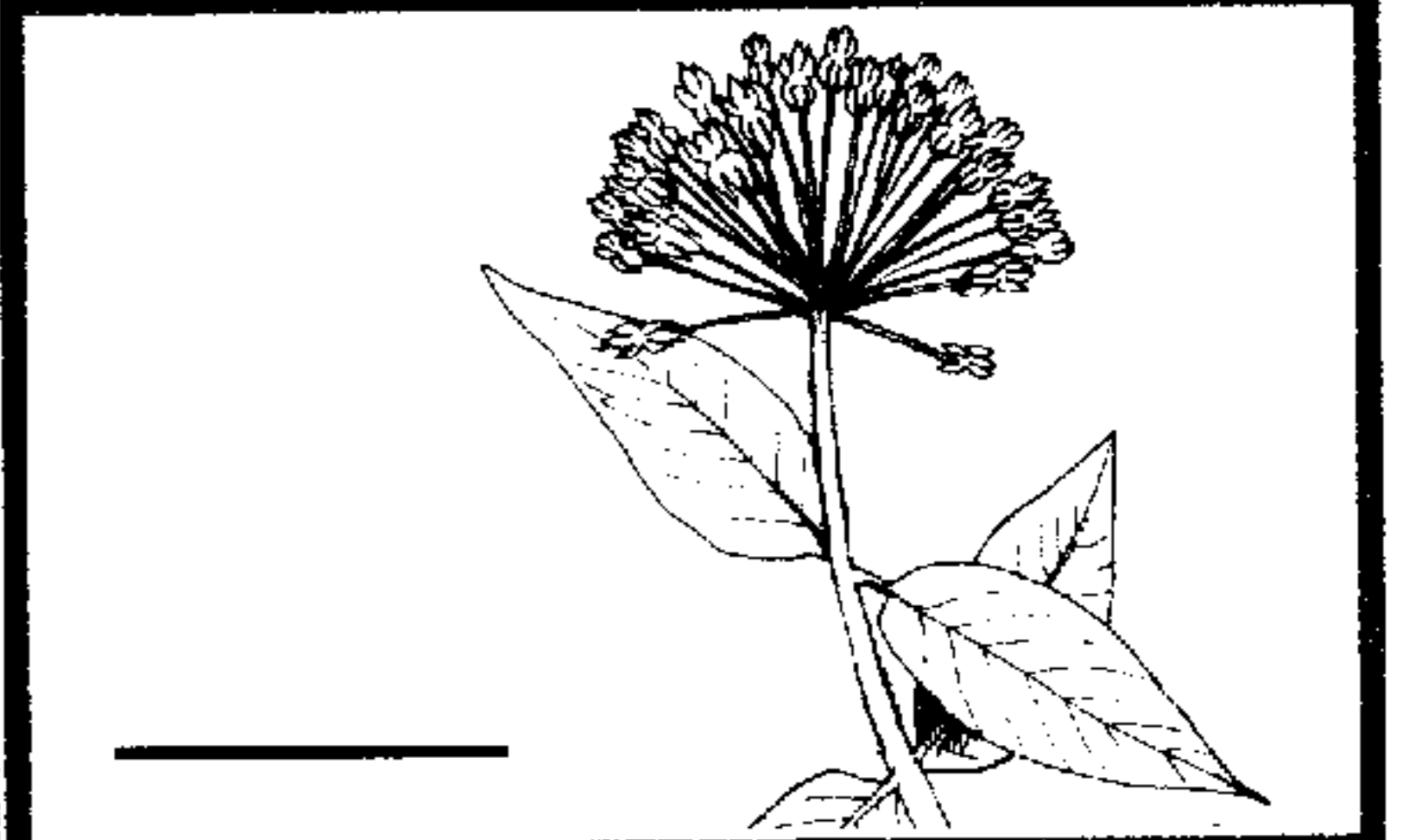


 6	 7	 8	 9	 10
LARGE CATERPILLAR	PUPA	PUPA	ADULT BUTTERFLY	ADULT BUTTERFLY

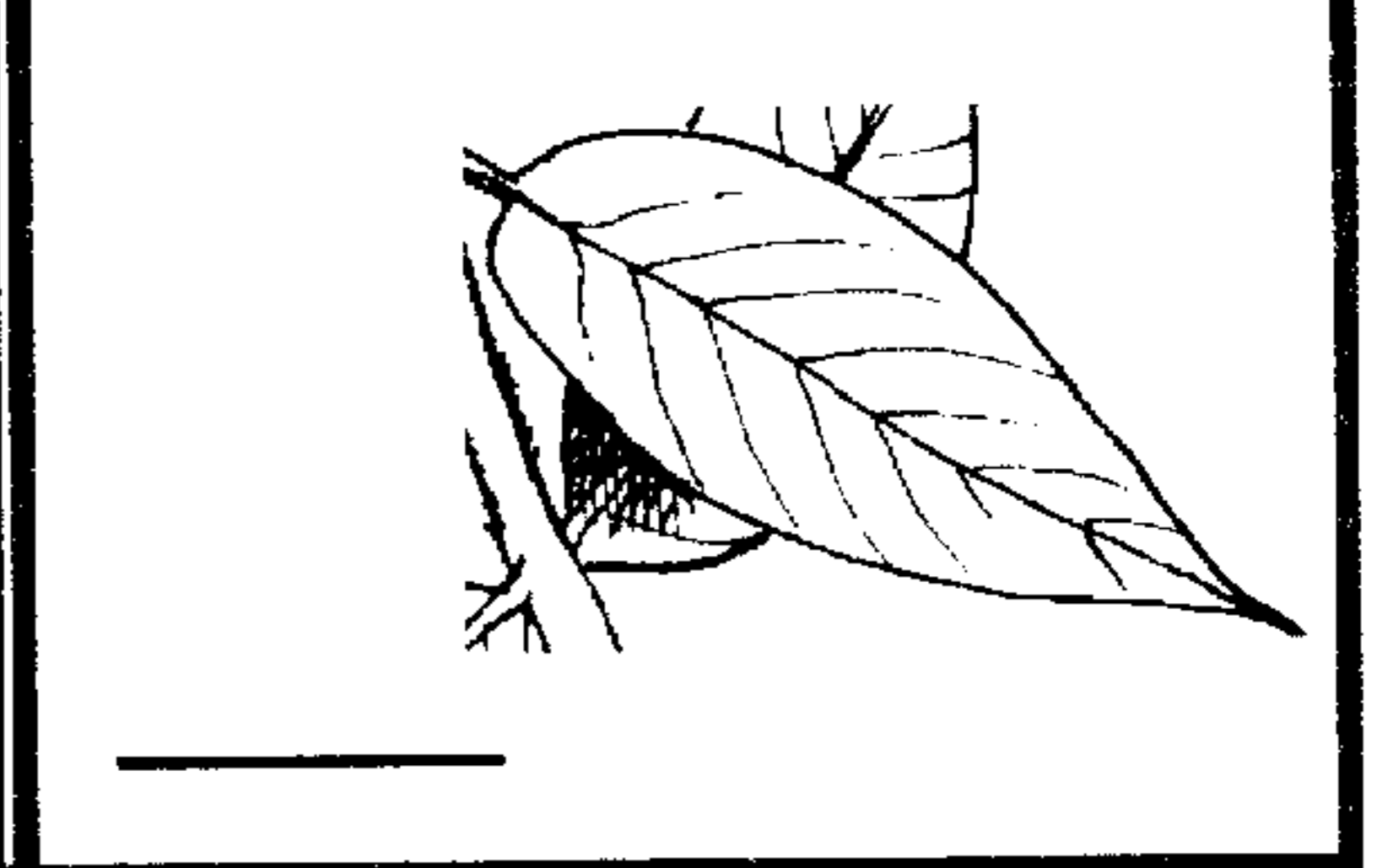
Here are some clues to help you become a Monarch Detective:
To see some evidence, check out the Monarch display at the Nature Center!

Tally Chart

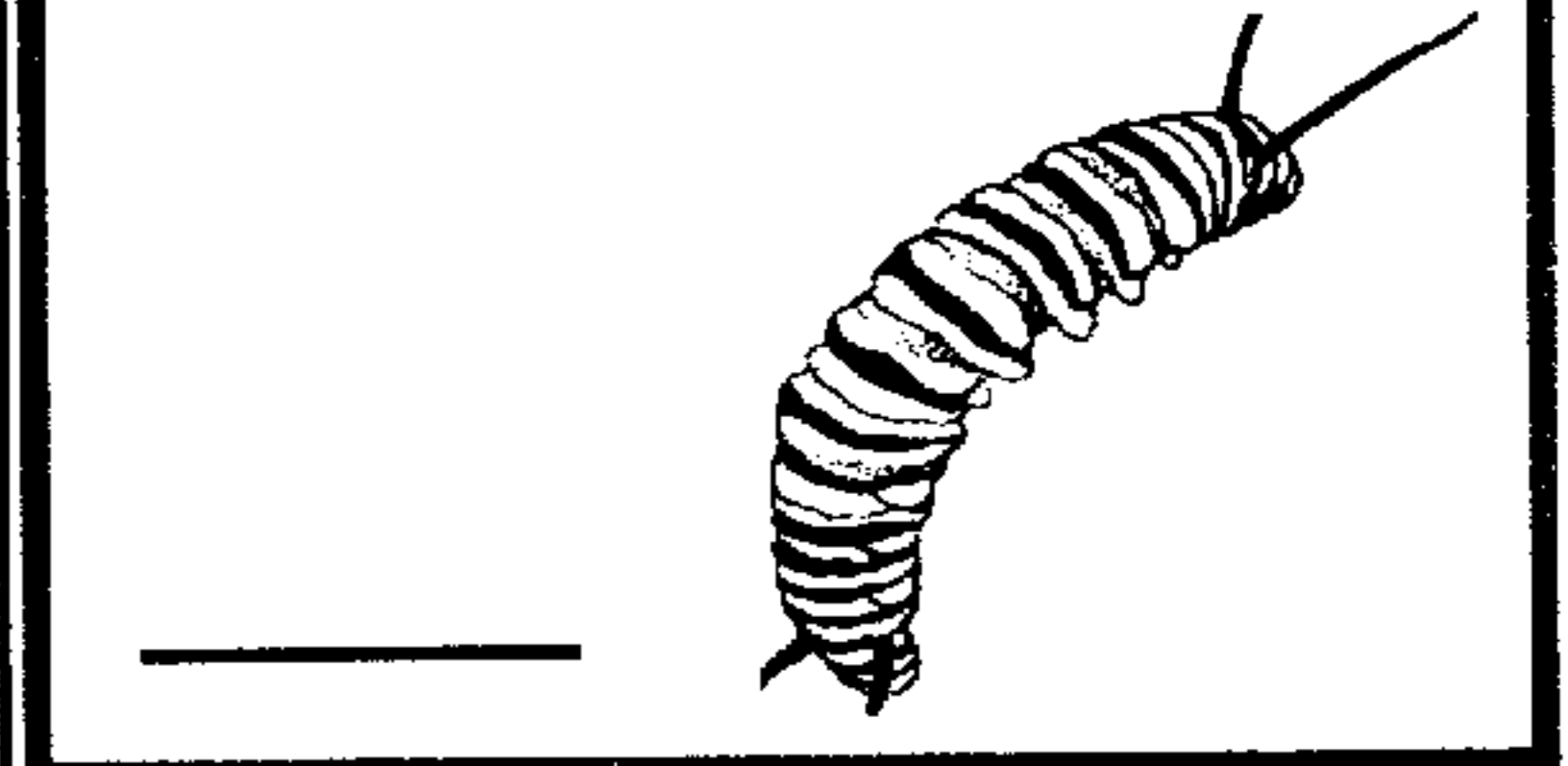
Milkweed can be found all over the park! It usually grows 60 to 120 cm (2 to 4 feet) tall and has pairs of fuzzy leaves on the stem. It is the only plant that Monarch caterpillars will eat. **Number of Milkweed plants checked** ▶



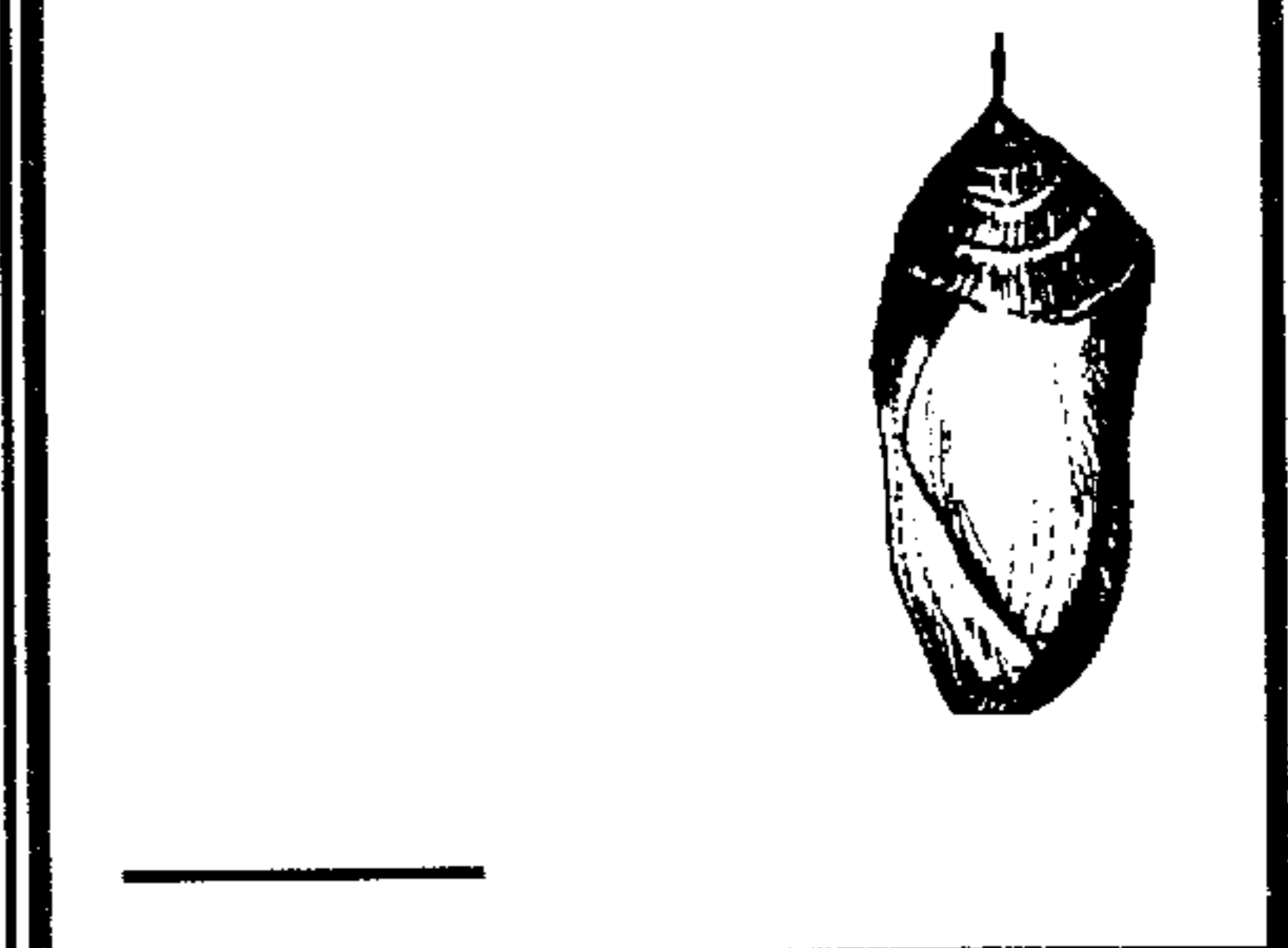
Eggs appear on the underside of leaves and are very hard to spot. They look like a tiny yellow-orange blob, like a drop of hardened glue. Until mid-July, eggs are likely the only sign of Monarchs you'll find on Milkweed. **Number of eggs found:** ▶



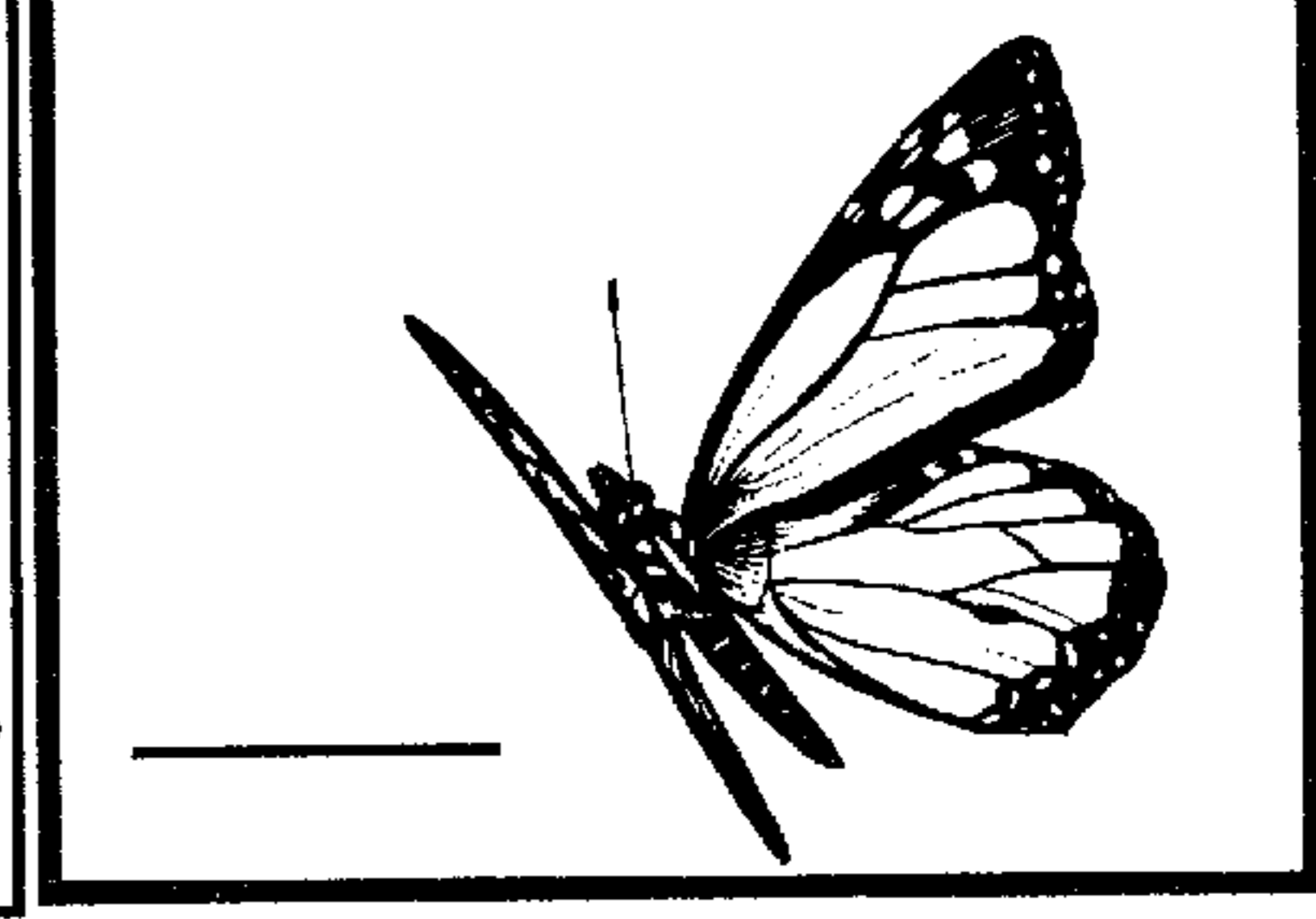
Monarch **caterpillars**, also called larvae, start out smaller than your baby toe and can grow to the size of your biggest finger. They are striped yellow and black and can be found after mid-July. **Number of Caterpillars found:** ▶▶



When the caterpillar has eaten lots of Milkweed and has finished growing it will turn into a **pupa** or chrysalis. Monarch pupae are a beautiful pale green colour with glittering gold spots. They are usually about 2 cm (almost 1 inch) long and dangle from the underside of leaves. They can be found in late July and August. **Number of Pupae found:** ▶▶▶



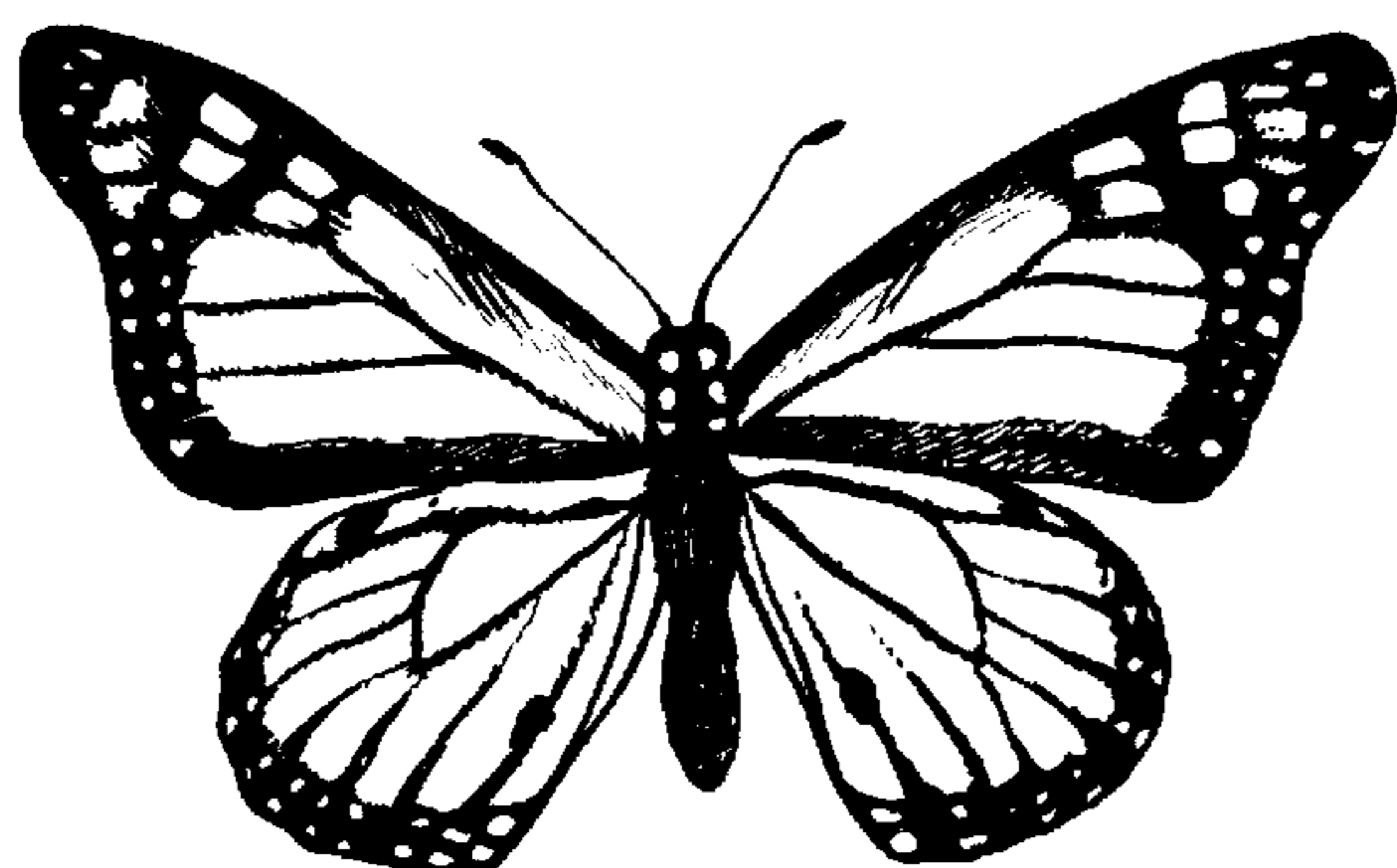
Butterflies will break out of their pupae after about two weeks. Then they will spread out their wings and fly off to many different kinds of flowers. Monarchs born at Presqu'île over the summer must migrate to Mexico to spend the winter. **Number of butterflies seen while checking Milkweed:** ▶



Level 2

Not a Tasty Treat!

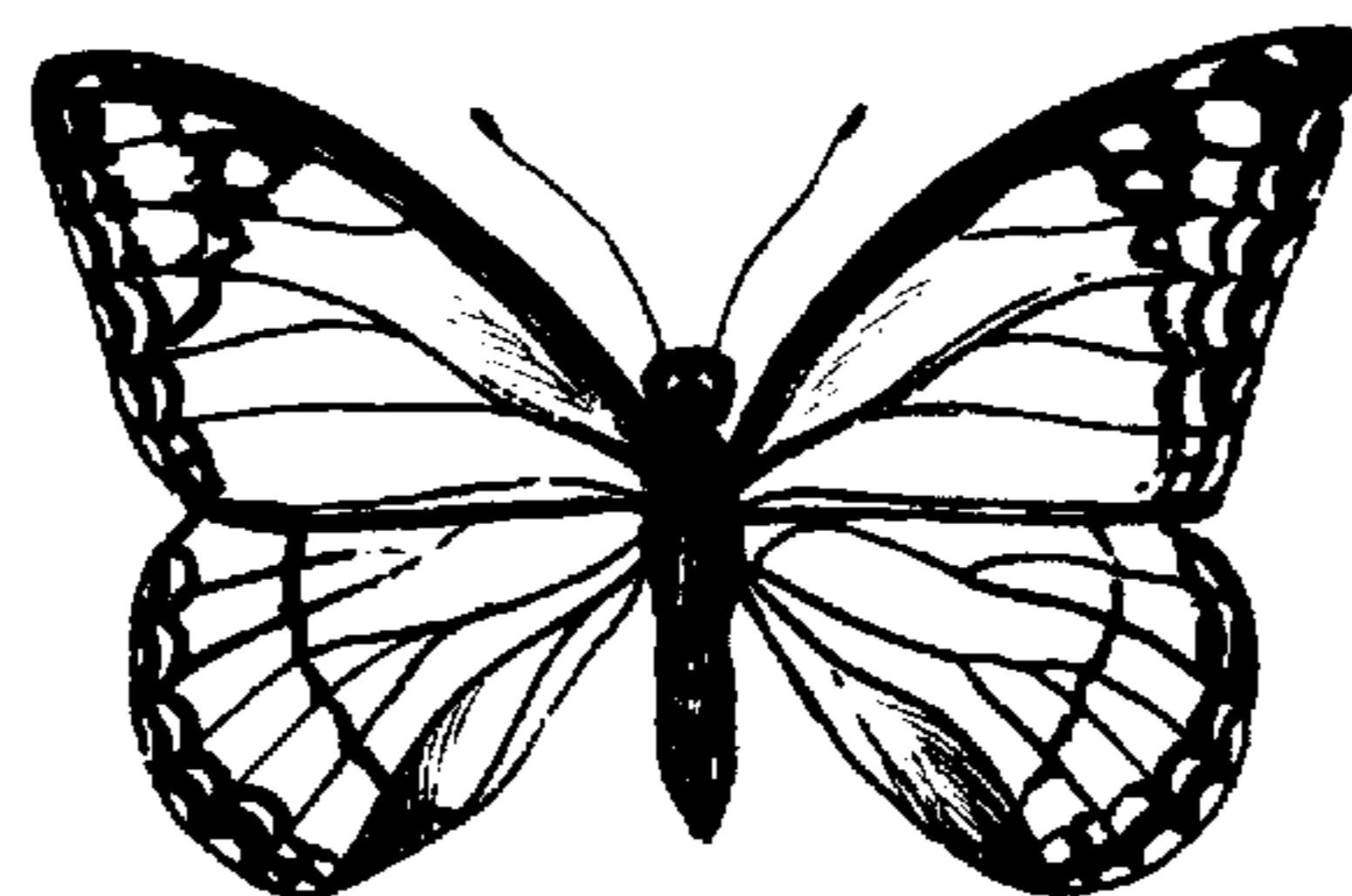
All my friends say Monarchs taste disgusting and can leave a bird feeling very sick. It's because the Milkweed that Monarchs eat may be poisonous. The poison doesn't hurt the Monarch but it can make them poisonous to eat. Often if an animal or plant has a bright colour pattern it means they taste bad or can sting. Birds learn to avoid the bright orange and black Monarch Butterflies.



Monarch

A Monarch Imposter!

The Viceroy butterfly looks so much like the Monarch that birds will avoid eating it, too. This defence is called **mimicry** because the Viceroy is copying or mimicking the Monarch.



Viceroy

Study these two butterflies and point out the differences.

Level 3

When an animal changes from an egg to a larva to an adult, it's called **metamorphosis**. Use the back of your tombolo flip-book and draw your own Monarch metamorphosis book. See eggs hatch, caterpillars pupate, and butterflies flutter by!

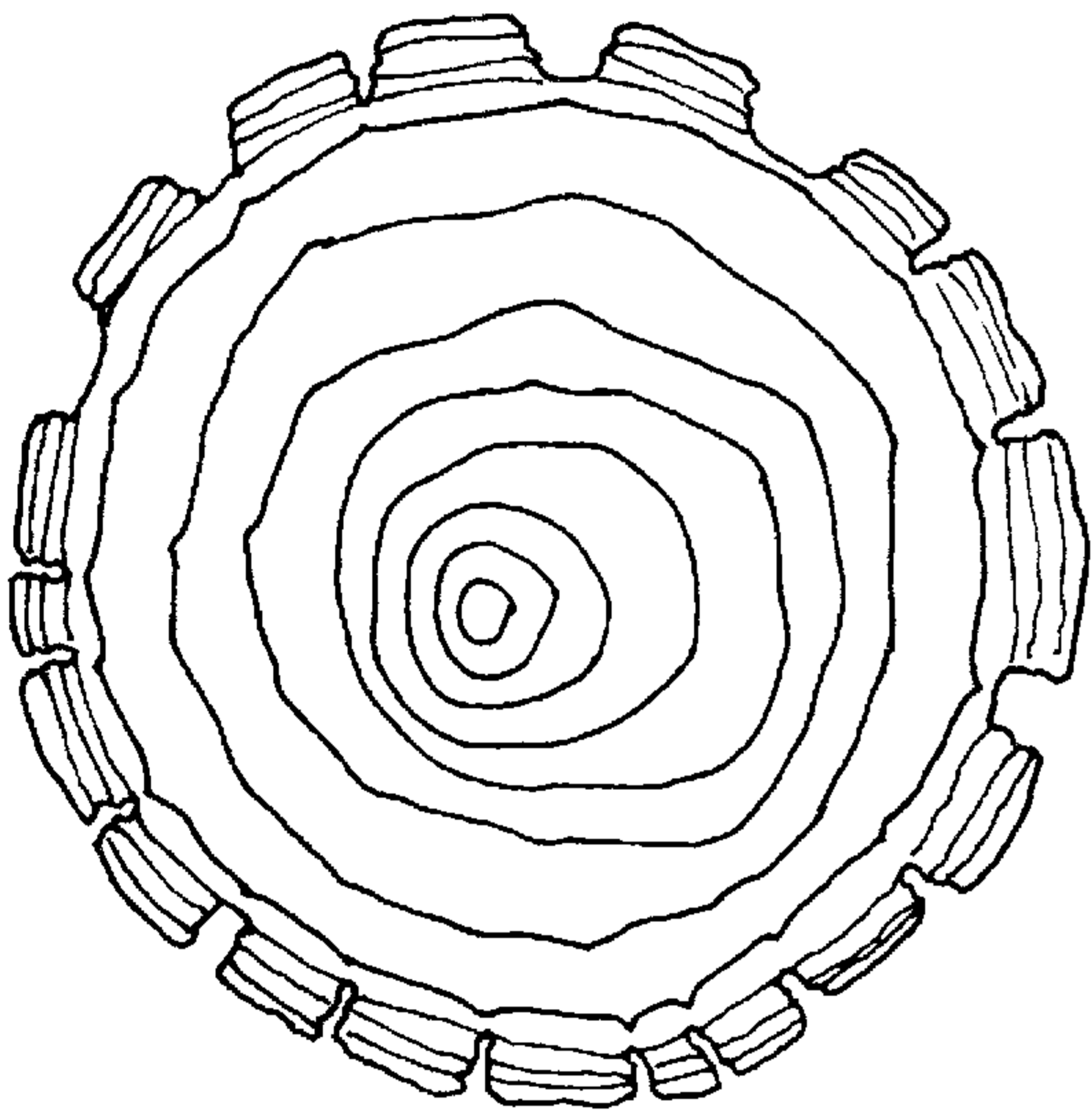
Viceroy

Monarch

Level 3 Tour the Tombolo

You can see how the peninsula gets older by looking at the different plants growing on it. **Go for a walk** from Beach 2 all the way through the car park out to the road. You will have walked across the younger half of the tombolo. Start at Beach 2 down by the water's edge. A few years ago, the sand you are standing on would not have been here. The beach grows wider every year as the wind and waves keep washing up more and more sand. As you walk back to the car park, you'll notice tree seedlings starting to grow. These seedlings and the tall trees around the car park are Cottonwood trees. You may think these trees are old because they are big but they can't be very old because this part of the tombolo is quite young. If you cross through the Pannes to the far side of the main road, you will be looking at the older half of the Tombolo. The Cedar trees that grow here are much older than the Cottonwoods but they don't look any bigger. To solve this mystery, **count the rings of the tree trunks below and discover how old the trees are.** The space between each ring shows how much the tree grew that year. The trunks are the same size but which tree grew faster?

Cottonwood

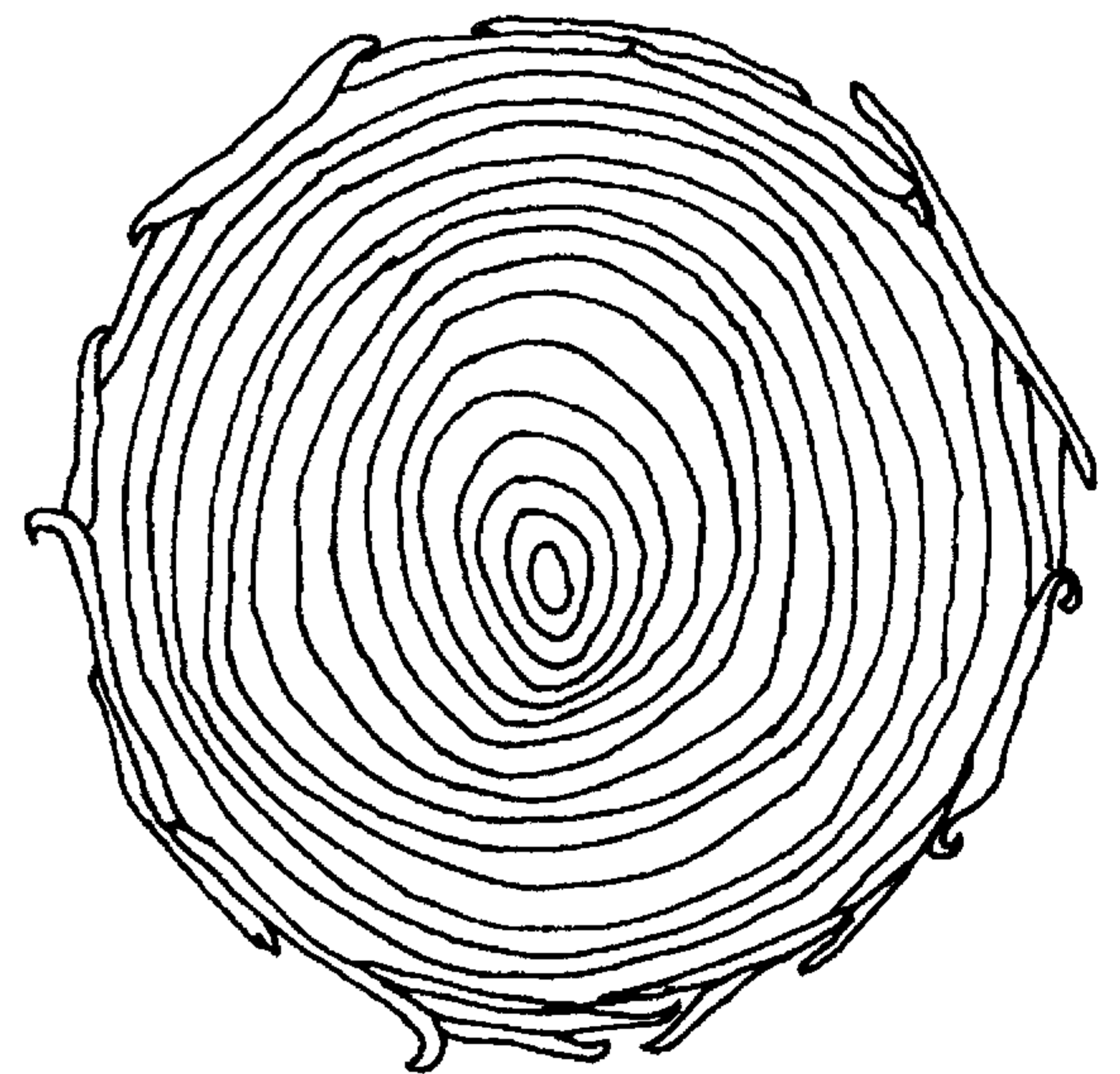


Age _____

Slow growing trees usually replace the fast growing trees. **Circle the correct sentence:**

1. Over time Cedars would take over a Cottonwood forest.
2. Over time Cottonwoods would take over a Cedar forest.

Cedar



Age _____

EGG	EGG	SMALL CATERPILLAR	SMALL CATERPILLAR	LARGE CATERPILLAR
1 Staple here	2	3	4	5

