# Life Cycles

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What is a Lifecycle?

Insects

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# What is a Lifecycle?

- What is a life cycle?
- What life cycles do you know about?
- Can you describe the life cycle of an animal or plant?

Share your ideas as a group and then as a class.

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# Mammals

LO: To understand the lifecycle of a mammal.

The lifecycle of a mammal involves 3 main stages:

Start

**Gestation**: Embryo growing inside the mother, where it is completely reliant upon the mother.

Independent adult usually seeks company from the opposite sex and mates. Adult female nurses their young.

**Young:** Main period of growth and developing independence from the parents.

**Mammals:**

- have hair or fur
- warm-blooded
- feed babies milk
- give live birth

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# Mammals

LO: To understand the lifecycle of a mammal.

Choose a mammal and draw the lifecycle stages.

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# Amphibian

LO: To understand the lifecycle of an amphibian.

The lifecycle of a frog involves 5 main stages:

**Start**

The female lays mass of **eggs** which are fertilised by the male.

After 2-25 days the **tadpole** hatches from the egg. It swims and eats plants. It breathes through gills.

The tadpole grows fins and a stronger tail. Then it develops lungs and hind legs.

The tadpole grows front legs and tail shortens. Uses nutrients in tail as food. It jumps out of water onto land.

The tail disappears and it starts to eat insects instead of plants. It takes 2-4 years to become an **adult frog**, when it can lay eggs.

**Amphibians:**

- live in water and on land
- moist slimy skin
- lays eggs
- babies different from adults

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# Amphibian

LO: To understand the lifecycle of an amphibian.

The lifecycle of a frog involves 5 main stages:

Present your learning about the life cycle of a frog (or a different amphibian) in one of these ways or in your own way:

- Create a computer based presentation like PowerPoint or Scratch
- Use drama
- Make a small book
- Your own idea

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# Reptiles

LO: To understand the life cycle of a reptile.

**Start**

When fully grown the adult reptile will begin to mate.

The female and male mate, then the female reptiles lays fertilised eggs. An embryo starts to grow within the egg. Most reptiles bury their eggs and leave them to hatch alone.

The hatchling begins to grow and becomes a juvenile. The juvenile looks just like the adult reptile. The juvenile grows slowly over a long period before reaching adulthood.

**Interesting Fact**
Although most reptiles lay eggs, a few species give birth to living offspring.

**Reptiles:**

- most hatch from eggs.
- are cold blooded.
- have dry, scaly skin

**Interesting Fact**
Due to the Mother burying her eggs and leaving them to hatch, the hatchlings have to fend for themselves from the moment they leave their egg.

When the embryo is fully formed, it is called a hatchling. It uses an egg tooth to break out of the egg or 'hatch'.

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# Reptiles

To understand the life cycle of a reptile.

Although they are all classed as reptiles, the life cycles of some of these creatures can be very different from what we have learned so far.

Make a leaflet to showcase the differences between the life cycles of these two reptiles:

**Garter Snake**

**Crocodile**

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# Insects

LO: To understand the lifecycle of an insect (**complete** metamorphosis).

Most insects undergo complete metamorphosis. This involves 4 main stages:

The **adult** breaks out of the pupa and matures.

The **pupa** is formed when the larva moults for the last time. Pupa have a hard protective coating and are often camouflaged. The larva transforms completely inside the pupa.

**Start**

**Eggs** are laid by the female insect.

**Insects:**

- hatch from eggs
- some look like parents and shed skin as grow
- some go through metamorphosis young and adult are different.

The eggs hatch into **larva**. The larva look nothing like the adult. This varies depending on species. Common forms are caterpillars, maggots, grubs.

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# Insects

LO: To understand the lifecycle of an insect (**incomplete** metamorphosis).
The lifecycles of insects that don't complete metamorphosis involve 3 main stages:

The nymph grows into the **adult** form, sometimes shedding skin. In winged insects fully functional wings mark the adult stage. Adult females lay eggs.

**Eggs** are laid by the female insect.

Eggs hatch into **nymphs**. Appearance varies depending on species. Nymphs look like a smaller adult insect and usually share the same habitat and food as the adult.

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# Insects

The lifecycle of an insect.

Research the lifecycles of 2 different insects.

- Explain the specific lifestyle of each insect.
- Compare the lifecycles, what is the same and what is different?
- Think how you can present your ideas.

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# Insects

LO: To compare life cycles of insects.
The lifecycle of insects that complete metamorphosis involves **4** main stages:

## **complete** metamorphosis

## **incomplete** metamorphosis

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# Birds

LO: To understand the lifecycle of a bird.

The lifecycle of a bird involves 3 main stages:

Start

Eggs are laid by the mother and the mother and father care for the egg until it hatches.

Independent adult usually seeks company from the opposite sex and mates.

Mother and father feed the young bird until it is old enough to fly and find its own food.

**Birds:**

- have feathers and wings
- warm-blooded
- lays eggs

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# Life Cycles

LO: To compare different life cycles.

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# Life Cycles

Compare the life cycles of mammals and birds.

| Similarities | Differences |
| --- | --- |
| • 3 main stages<br>• First stage is where embryo forms and grows<br>• Second stage is where young is supported by parents.<br>• Third stage is adult stage where reproduction takes place. | • Mammals give birth to live young<br>• Birds lay eggs<br>• Mammal usually nursed by mother<br>• Young birds usually fed by adult male and female. |

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# Life Cycles – Mammals and Birds

Compare the life cycles of:

| Similarities | Differences |
| --- | --- |
| • Text here | • Text here |

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