

WALT compare the timelines of other animals with humans.

WILF:

- compare the timeline with milestones for three animal classes
- Identify similarities and differences.

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

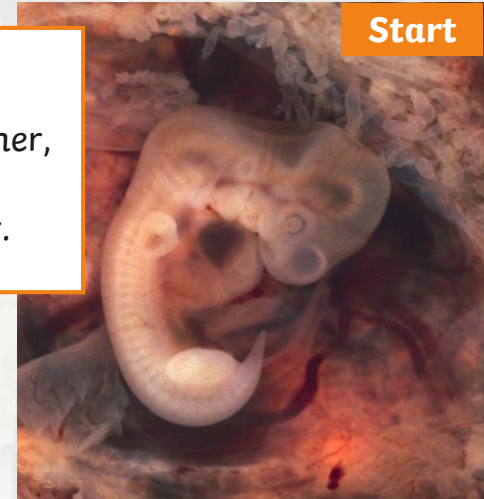


Mammals

The life cycle of a mammal involves three 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.

Mammals:

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



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

Mammals



Interesting Fact

There are egg-laying mammals called monotremes. Australia is home to the echidna and platypus.



Amphibian

The life cycle of a frog involves five main stages:

Start

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

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

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

The tadpole grows front legs and its tail shortens. It uses nutrients in its tail as food. It jumps out of the water on to the land.

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

Amphibians:

- live in water and on land;
- have moist, slimy skin;
- lay eggs.



Reptiles



When fully grown, the adult reptile will begin to mate.



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.

Reptiles:

- 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.

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

Interesting Fact

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



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

Insects

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

Start

Eggs are laid by the female insect.

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

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.

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

Insects:

- hatch from eggs;
- shed skin as they grow;
- experience metamorphosis in some cases.

Insects

The life cycle of insects that don't complete metamorphosis involves three 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.

Insects

The life cycle of insects that complete metamorphosis involves four main stages:

complete metamorphosis



incomplete metamorphosis



Birds

The life cycle of a bird involves three main stages:



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

Birds:

- have feathers and wings;
- are warm-blooded;
- lay eggs.

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



Start



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



Your Activity: Create a leaflet about 'Life on Earth'.

Discuss or think about the following questions:

Is a butterfly life cycle more like a ladybug or a dragonfly?

Is the life cycle of a dolphin more like a cat or a frog?

Is the life cycle of an echidna more like a hedgehog or a platypus?

Choose three different animals and compare:

- Their lifespan
- How they are born
- How they care for their young
- Their stages of growth
- How they reproduce

To the human lifecycle.



If you're stuck, you could do something like this to compare.

	Insects	Mammals	Amphibians	Birds	Reptiles
Born from eggs	Green	Orange	Green	Green	Green
Have a live birth	Red	Green	Red	Red	Orange
Female carries the young	Red	Green	Red	Red	Red
Female produces milk to feed the young	Red	Green	Red	Red	Red
Spends part of its life in water	Orange	Orange	Green	Red	Orange