• WALT compare different lifecycles.

WILF: describe the differences in the life cycles of a mammal, an amphibian, an insect and a bird





Ponds may look calm and pretty from afar, but expert pond dippers know they are **battlegrounds**. Every creature has two options – eat or be eaten! Each species has a **life cycle** that gives them the best chance of surviving until they are adults.

A dragonfly, which is classified as an insect.

A common frog, which is classified as an amphibian.

We are going to compare two life cycles that are commonly found in and around ponds.

Dragonfly life cycle

Dragonflies lay their **eggs** in pond water.

Dragonfly nymphs grow and develop in the water.

Adult dragonflies are the fighter jets of the pond! They are fierce predators that hunt and feed on smaller insects.

After up to two years, the **nymphs** clamber up plants to live above water. They shed their skin for the last time, revealing their adult bodies.

The **nymphs** grow massive jaws, which they keep folded under their bodies. When they feel a tadpole nearby, their jaws extend with a snap to grab their prey!

Frog life cycle

Finally, the tadpole tail disappears, and the **young frog** is ready to live on land.

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Frogs mate and lay up to 5,000 **eggs** in the water. They lay so many because not many of them will survive to be adult frogs.



A few weeks later, they grow front legs. They have switched from herbivores to carnivores!

> Their gills disappear as their lungs develop. They grow back legs.

After about two weeks, tadpoles hatch with long tails and gills on the outside of their bodies, to soak up oxygen from the water. At first, they have no mouth or eyes.

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	What are

Similarities	Differences	
	Frogs metamorphose in weeks. Dragonflies take up to two years.	
	Dragonfly babies are called nymphs. Frogs are called tadpoles and then froglets.	
	Dragonflies shed their skins and frogs don't.	
	Dragonflies are always carnivores, whereas frogs switch from being a herbivore to a carnivore.	
re the similarities and differences between the two life cycles? Write some down.		



Similarities



Both grow and develop in the water



Both metamorphosise

Differences

Frogs metamorphose in weeks. Dragonflies take up to two years.

Dragonfly babies are called nymphs. Frogs are called tadpoles and then froglets.

Dragonflies shed their skins and frogs don't.

Dragonflies are always carnivores, whereas frogs switch from being a herbivore to a carnivore. Click on the bird to see a video of a Bird at the beginning of it's lifecycle.

Can you remember any other animal's lifecycles?

If you can, draw and label them here, then compare them to the lifecycles we've looked at today.





Choose your own mammal, amphibian, bird or insect and create a model life cycle complete with labels.

> Once you have made it, upload a picture.

Don't forget to label it and explain what is happening!



This example is a model life cycle of a butterfly.

