

What should I already know?
 I know that animals, including humans, have offspring which grow into adults.

Enquiry Question
 How are the life cycles of animals similar and how are they different?

Vocabulary	
Monotreme	a mammal that lays eggs, such as the platypus and the spiny anteater
Offspring	the young of a living thing
Mammary gland	the organ of female mammals that produces milk
Mammals	an animal with a spine and with fur or hair on its body, which gives birth to live young and feeds its young on milk
Amphibian	a cold-blooded vertebrate that lives on land and in water and usually lays eggs
Metamorphosis	the process by which the young form of an insect or amphibian changes into a distinct adult form
Insect	a small animal that has three body sections, six legs and antennae
Chrysalis	a specific type of pupa that occurs in the life cycle of butterflies
Pupa	an insect after it has been a larva and before it becomes an adult, usually enclosed in a cocoon or hard case
Larva	the young form of an insect

Animal Life Cycles

A life cycle - is a series of stages a living thing goes through during its life

Mammals	Amphibians	Insects	Birds
<p>Mammals have a 3-stage life cycle:</p> <p>Stage 1: The gestation period - the embryo grows inside the mother and is dependent on her even after it is born.</p> <p>Stage 2: The young mammal grows and develops independence.</p> <p>Stage 3: Adult mates in order to reproduce.</p>	<p>Many amphibians have a 5 - stage life cycle through metamorphosis:</p> <p>Stage 1: Females lay eggs called frogspawn, fertilized by the male.</p> <p>Stage 2: Tadpoles breathe in water through gills.</p> <p>Stage 3: Tadpoles grow fins and develop lungs. (froglets)</p> <p>Stage 4: Tadpoles grow front legs. Jump from water onto land.</p> <p>Stage 5: Start to eat insects/plants. Takes 2-4 years to become an adult.</p>	<p>Most insects undergo metamorphosis and have a 4 - stage life cycle:</p> <p>Stage 1: Eggs laid by female insects.</p> <p>Stage 2: Eggs hatch into larva, e.g. caterpillars, maggots, grubs.</p> <p>Stage 3: The pupa (hard coating) is formed. Inside this, the larva transforms.</p> <p>Stage 4: The adult breaks out of the pupa and matures.</p>	<p>Birds have a 3 - stage life cycle:</p> <p>Stage 1: Eggs laid by the mother. Parents care for the egg until hatching.</p> <p>Stage 2: Mother and father feed the bird until it is independent.</p> <p>Stage 3: Adult mates in order to reproduce.</p>

