




Key learning

As part of their life cycle, plants and animals reproduce. Most animals reproduce sexually. This involves two parents where the sperm from the male fertilises the female egg. Animals, including humans, have offspring which grow into adults. In humans and some animals, these offspring will be born live, such as babies or kittens, and then grow into adults. In other animals, such as chickens or snakes, there may be eggs laid that hatch to young which then grow to adults. Some young undergo a further change before becoming adults e.g. caterpillars to butterflies. This is called a metamorphosis.

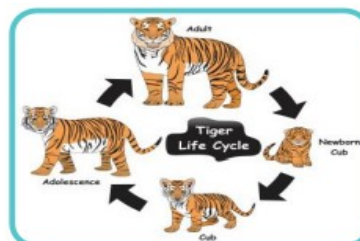
Plants reproduce both sexually and asexually. Bulbs, tubers, runners and plantlets are examples of asexual plant reproduction which involves only one parent. Gardeners may force plants to reproduce asexually by taking cuttings. Sexual reproduction occurs through pollination, usually involving wind or insects.

	living organism
	naturalist
	primatologist
	metamorphosis
	endangered
	asexual
	reproduction
	fertilisation
	placental mammal
	monotreme mammal

Reproduction in plants

Plants contain both male and female cells. Some need to be pollinated in order to be fertilised. Others use asexual reproduction to reproduce.

Common Flower Parts

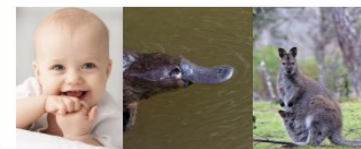


Birds and Reptiles

Most birds and reptiles are born when the mother lays eggs and incubates them until they are ready to hatch. Once the egg is hatched, the baby is looked after by the mother before leaving the nest.

Mammals

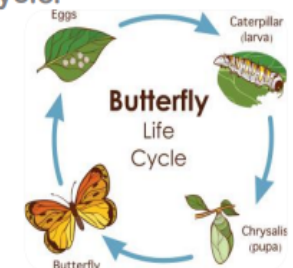
Mammals reproduce and give birth to live young. They can be either placental, monotreme or marsupial.



Metamorphosis

Amphibians are a bit different. Many are born live or underwater. They complete a metamorphosis as adults and can live and breathe on land.

Metamorphosis is the change in body form and habits during the life cycle.



Rocket Words



living organism

something that can move, use energy and reproduce



naturalist

an expert in the studies of natural history



primatologist

a person who carries out a scientific study of primates



metamorphosis

when insects and amphibians transform from larval stage to their adult form



endangered

an animal is considered endangered when there are very few of them alive



asexual

where only one parent is needed to create offspring



reproduction

to make offspring either sexually or asexually



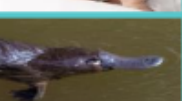
fertilisation

when a sperm and egg cell join together



placental mammal

has live young which develop before birth inside a female mammal



monotreme mammal

a mammal who lays eggs to reproduce