

What I should know already...

This unit extends learning from year 1 and 2 (Apprentice gardener unit) and years 3 and 4 (Where does your garden grow unit) when life cycles of plants were studied.

Key Skills

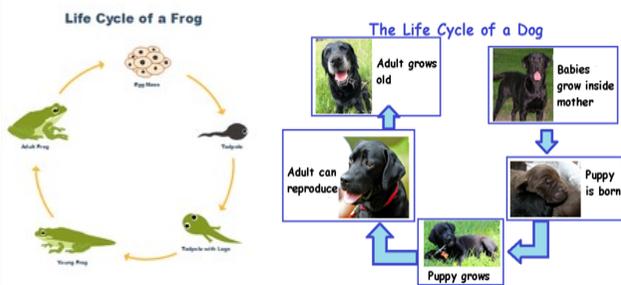
This unit will look at life cycles of well known and not so well known mammals and insects.

Understand the importance of Jane Goodall and David Attenborough in understanding more about conservation.

Identifying scientific evidence that has been used to support or refute ideas or arguments.

Reporting and presenting findings from enquiries, including conclusions, causal relationships and explanations of and degree of trust in results, in oral and written forms such as displays and other presentations.

Diagram



Amphibian life cycle

Mammal life cycle

Key Vocabulary

Animal	A living thing that can move and feel.
Life cycle	The series of changes in the life of a living thing.
Mammals	Any animal of which the female gives birth to live young and can feed them with her own milk.
Amphibians	An animal which can live on land and in the water.
Insects	A small animal with 6 legs and a body divided into 3 parts.
Birds	A feathered animal with two wings, two legs and a beak.
Endangered animals	Animals that are in danger of becoming extinct. This means that there will be no more of these animals alive on earth. An animal is considered endangered or "threatened" when there are very few of them alive.

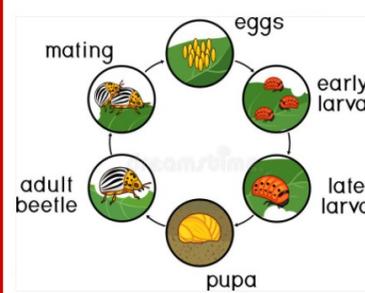
Metamorphosis	A complete change made by some living things, such as a caterpillar changing into a butterfly.
Extinct	An animal is extinct when there are no more examples of it alive.
Reproduction	The process of producing off spring .
Conservation	Preventing overuse of a resource

Misconceptions

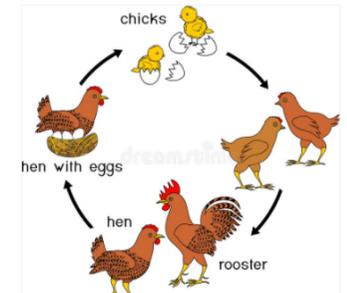
Children may think humans are not animals.

Children tend to recognize common mammals as animals and do not include birds, insects, fish and amphibians.

Children may not appreciate that different types of animals have different cycles, for example they think that all young animals start life as miniatures of their adult parents.



Insect life cycle



Bird life cycle

Key questions

- How do different life cycles differ?
- Are all mammal life cycles the same?
- How do different bird gestation periods compare?
- Do all amphibians lay their eggs under water?
- If everything has a life cycle why do some animals become extinct?

Recommended reading

A Butterfly's Life Cycle
M. R. Dunn

