

Life Cycles

All living things have life cycles.

Animals produce offspring and plants produce seeds which germinate into new plants.

A life cycle is the different stages of life for a living thing.

In science it is usually displayed as a circular diagram showing each stage in words and/or pictures.

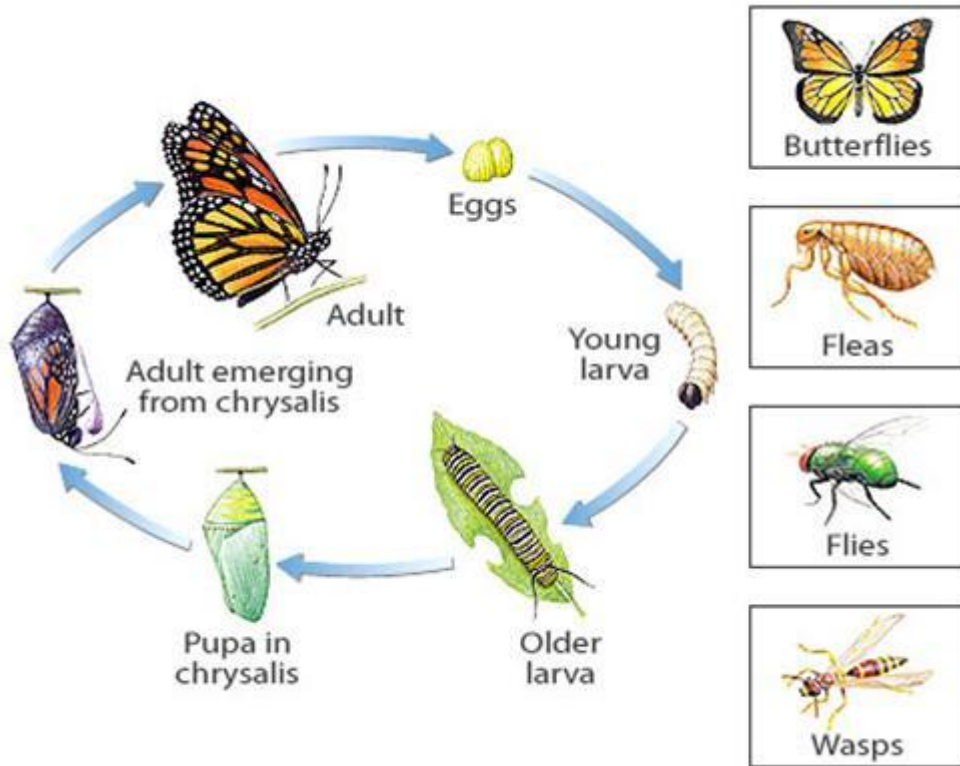
Different classes of animals have different life cycles. Most classes of animals, including fish, mammals, reptiles, and birds, have fairly simple life cycles. First, they are born, either alive from their mother or hatched from eggs. Then they grow and develop into adults.

Amphibians and insects have more complicated life cycles. These animals undergo a **metamorphosis** (a significant change in their physical structure or habits).

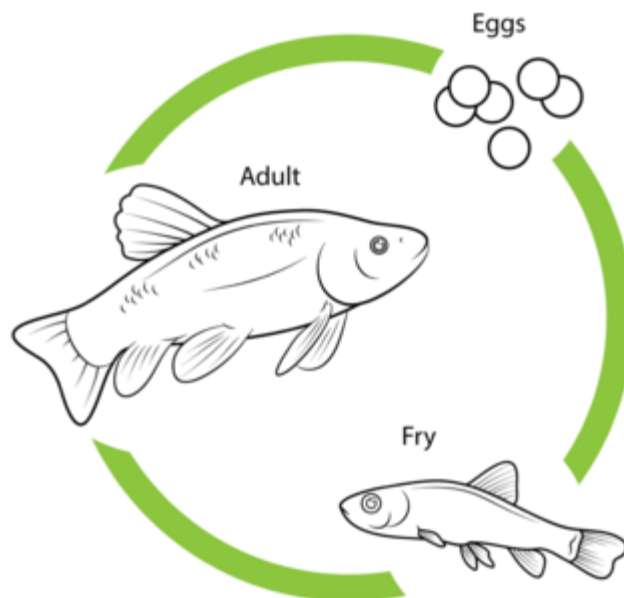
Comparison of Life Cycles

Animal Class	Life Cycle Overview	Examples
Insects	Some insects undergo complete metamorphosis. The stages are egg, larva, pupa, and adult.	bee, butterfly, ladybug, mosquito
	Other insects undergo incomplete metamorphosis. The stages are egg, nymph, and adult.	bedbug, dragonfly, grasshopper, lice
Amphibians	Amphibians also undergo a metamorphosis. They lay their eggs in water. Larvae hatch and live underwater. They grow and develop into terrestrial adults that live and breathe on land.	frog, salamander, skink
Mammals	Mammals are born alive. They grow and develop until they become adults.	bat, cat, cow, dog, seal, humpback whale, pig, polar bear, porcupine, kangaroo
Fish	Fish deposit eggs (spawn). Fish hatch and then grow and develop into adults.	clown fish, barramundi, salmon
Birds	Birds lay eggs. The eggs hatch and the chicks grow and develop into adults.	Kookaburra, cockatoo, owl, parrot
Reptiles	Most reptiles lay eggs. The eggs hatch and the young reptiles grow and develop into adults.	snake, turtle, lizards

Invertebrate Life Cycle

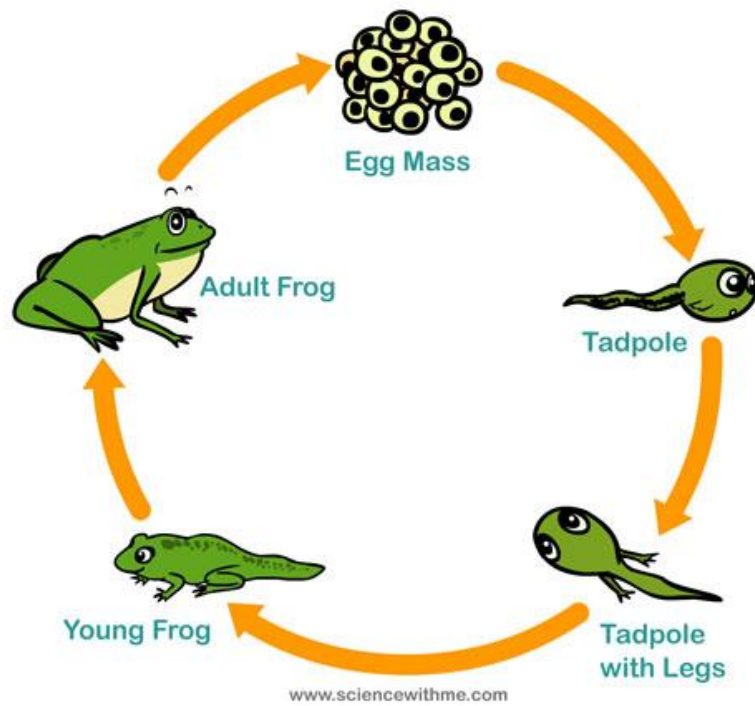


Fish Life Cycle



Amphibian Life Cycle

Example: Frog

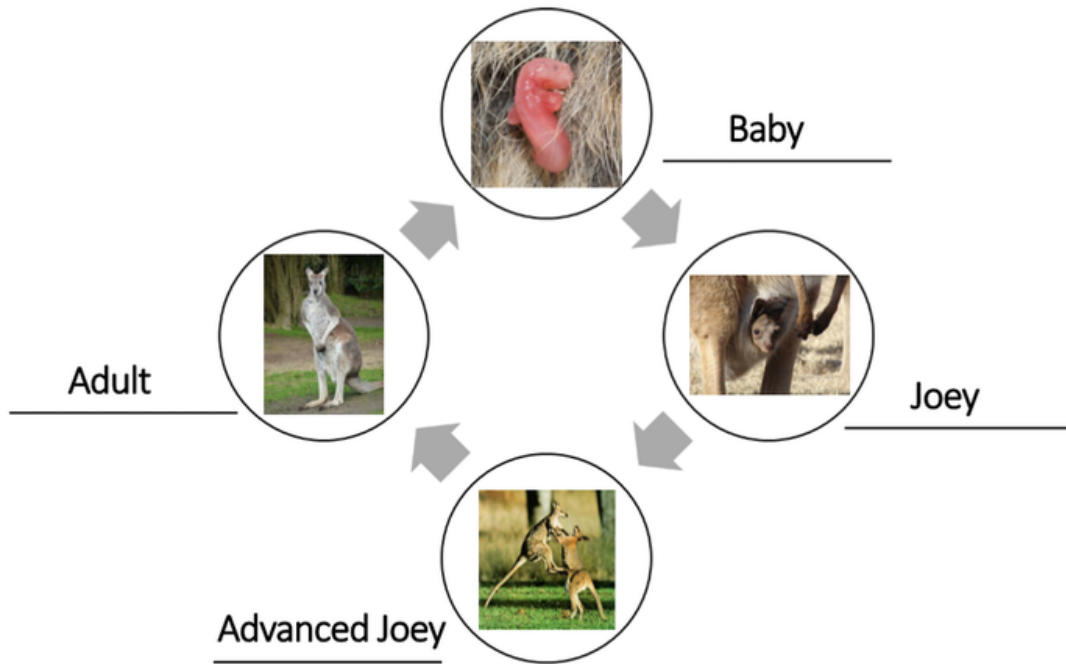


Bird Life Cycle

Example: Owl



Mammals
Example: Kangaroo



Reptiles
Example: Bearded Dragon

