

Science - The Circle of Life

All animals, including humans, are born, they get older and bigger and some will go on to have children. In the end, all animals die. We call this a life cycle.

Key Vocabulary

Metamorphosis	Metamorphosis involves a radical change from the young animal to its adult form, e.g tadpole to a frog.
Reproduce	When living things give birth to live young or lay eggs
Asexual reproduction	A type of reproduction which does not involve the fusion of gametes (sperm and eggs)
Ovule/ovary	The part of the ovary of seed plants and animals, that contains the female germ cell and after fertilization becomes the seed/baby
Gestation	The time it takes for a baby to grow in the womb or egg

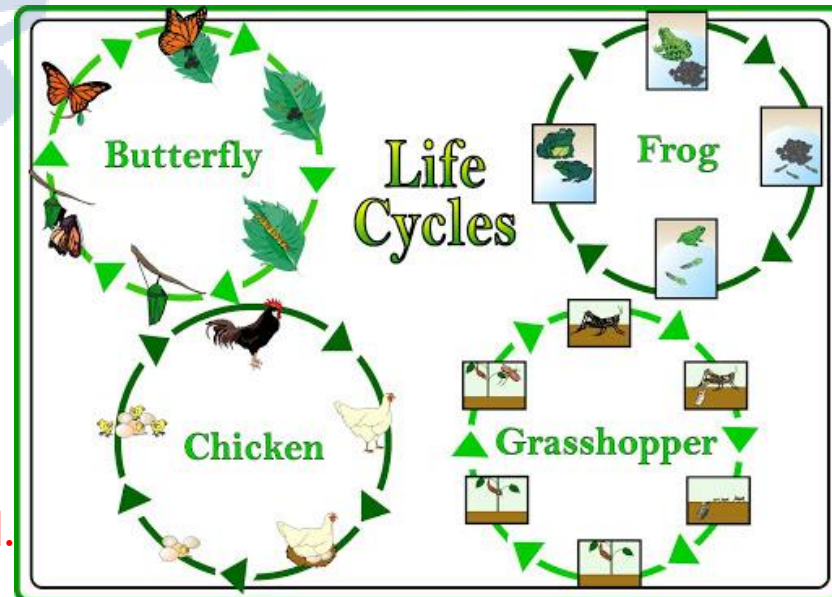


What came first? The chicken or the egg?

Eggs are much older than chickens. Dinosaurs laid eggs, the fish that first crawled out of the sea laid eggs, and the weird monsters that swam in the warm shallow seas, in the Cambrian Period 500 million years ago, also laid eggs. They weren't chicken's eggs, but they were still eggs. So the egg definitely came first.

Did you know?

An African Elephant's gestation period is 22 months, the longest of any mammal.



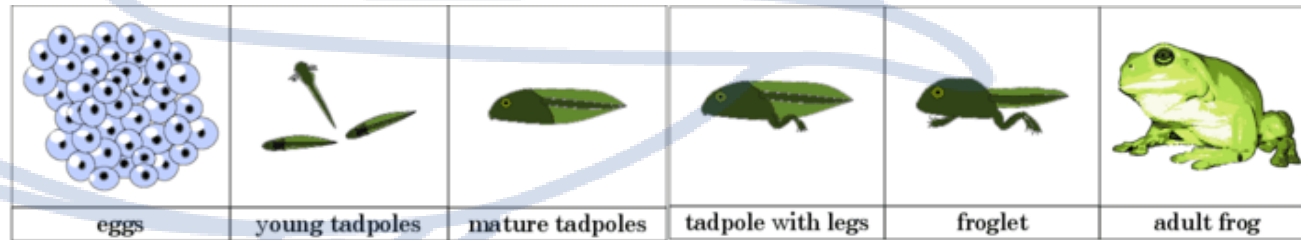
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What are the three main things that a seed needs to germinate?

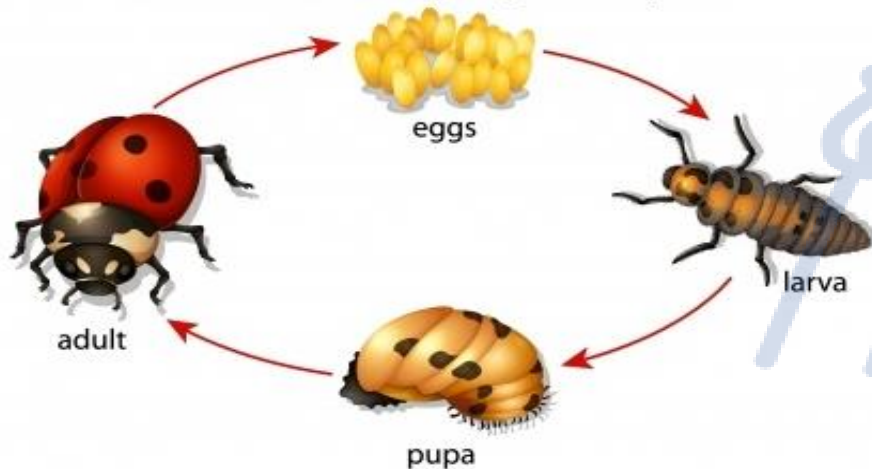
Metamorphosis

These are animals that go through a complete change. They are "Wow!" animals. They go to bed looking one way and wake up a completely different creature. Wow!

- A life cycle is the complete series of changes undergone by an organism during its life. A new cycle occurs when an identical set of organisms have been created.
- All organisms go through stages of development.
- Environmental conditions such as water, temperature and light affect the development of organisms.
- In most mammals, the stages of life go from the fertilized egg, to the foetus, the juvenile and then to the adult.



Coccinellidae (ladybug) Life Cycle



Amphibians: Frogs and newts

- They are born live from their mother or hatched from eggs.
- They spend their childhood in water breathing through gills.
- They grow into adults that move onto land, develop lungs and breathe air.