

RS Science – Living Things and their Habitats

Key Vocabulary

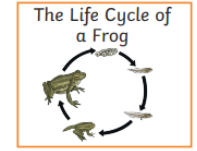
life cycle	The series of changes a living thing goes through from its beginning to its end is called its life cycle.
fertilisation	Fertilisation is the process of the male and female sex cells joining together.
Living Organism	Something that is alive is a living organism. It can move, use energy and reproduce.
asexual reproduction	Asexual reproduction occurs when only one parent produces offspring that are nearly identical to the parent itself.
marsupial	A marsupial mammal gives birth to partly developed young, which then mature in the mother's pouch.
metamorphosis	Metamorphosis is the process of a living thing completely changing in appearance from one stage of its life to the next.
monotreme	A monotreme is a mammal that lays eggs to reproduce
naturalist	A naturalist is someone who is interested in and studies nature and natural history.

Key Knowledge – Life cycles

All living things have a life cycle – they are born, grow, reproduce and eventually reach the end of their lives. Reproduction happens when male and female sex cells join to create offspring. The life cycle can vary slightly between different species.

Amphibians and Insects

Amphibians and insects hatch from eggs and often go through metamorphosis, changing in appearance as they grow into adults.



A leopard is a placental mammal.



A platypus is a monotreme.



Koalas are marsupials.



Mammals

Most mammals (including humans) are placental, meaning the foetus develops inside the body until it is ready to be born. However, some mammals are monotremes, which lay eggs, and others are marsupials, which carry their babies in a pouch after birth.

Birds and Reptiles

Birds and most reptiles hatch from eggs.

A snake is a reptile that usually lays eggs.



Birds lay eggs in a nest; they hatch when the chick is fully formed.



Reproduction in plants

Sexual reproduction in plants usually happens when the pollen from the anther of one flower reaches the stigma of another flower. It then travels to the ovary and joins with an ovule, forming a seed that can grow into a new plant.

Asexual reproduction in plants happens when a parent produces new plants that are almost identical to itself, without the need for fertilisation. This can occur through bulbs, tubers or runners. A potato is a tuber, strawberry plants grow runners and garlic grows from bulbs.

