

The Life Cycle Concept

READ ALOUD PASSAGE

Every living organism goes through a life cycle. A life cycle is the sequence of stages that a living thing goes through from birth to death. All life cycles include being born or hatched or sprouting, growing and developing, reproducing, and eventually dying. Reproduction ensures that a species continues even as individual organisms die.

The life cycle of a human starts as a baby. The baby grows into a child, the child grows into an adult, and the adult can have children of their own. Then the cycle continues with the next generation.

Other animals have similar life cycles, though the stages may look different. A puppy grows into a dog. A chick hatches from an egg and grows into a chicken. All of these are life cycles with the same basic steps: birth, growth, reproduction, and death.

Plants have life cycles too. A seed sprouts and grows into a plant. The plant produces flowers, which make seeds. Those seeds fall to the ground and grow into new plants. The cycle begins again.

Activity 1

Turn each fragment into a complete sentence.

1. grows from a seed into a full plant

2. the stages of every living organism's life cycle

Activity 2

Because / But / So Complete each sentence three different ways.

All living things reproduce because

All living things reproduce but

All living things reproduce so

Activity 3

Fill in the blank with the correct word from the word box.

WORD BOX

life cycle reproduce germination organism stages

1. The sequence of _____ a living thing goes through from birth to death is its _____.
2. Living things must _____ so their species does not die out.
3. In plants, the process of a seed beginning to grow is called _____.