Life Cycles

Butterflies, chickens, and frogs all have something in common. Do you know what it is? They all go through a **life cycle**. Even people go through a life cycle. So, what is a life cycle?

The Life Cycle of a Butterfly

Butterflies start out as tiny eggs. You might be able to find them in the spring. Usually, they are found on or under a green leaf. The eggs hatch into caterpillars. The caterpillars eat lots of leaves. Then, they make a chrysalis. Finally, they emerge as butterflies! These different stages are the life cycle of a butterfly.

tage ife cycle can be observed in image above?

All Life Cycles Are Similar

Organisms are living t Pla like trees and flowers are organisms. Animals are anis s. A cycle s the stages an organism goes through in its life. Th tages of a l cy are:

- **Birth**: A th, organism is born. Many animals hatch from eggs, while others are orn alive. Many plants sprout from seeds. This is their way of bein th.
- **Growth**: After birth, organisms go through a stage of growth. Young animals often eat a lot as they grow. Plants also grow quickly.
- **Reproduction**: Organisms grow until they are adults or mature. Then, they can reproduce. Some animals lay eggs. Other animals give birth to live young. Many plants produce flowers and fruit, which hold seeds.
- **Death**: All organisms eventually die. However, they live on through their offspring. The life cycle starts all over again with the newborn organism.

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All life cycles follow these stages. However, different organisms look different at different stages. For example, imagine you plant a sunflower seed. One day you notice that sprouts are coming out of the dirt. The same day, you see a caterpillar. Both the caterpillar and the sprout are in the same stage of growth. Yet, they look very different and they grow differently. The caterpillar eats leaves to grow. On the other hand, the sprout needs water, sun, and soil to grow.

How are a caterpillar and a sunflower sprout the same? How are they different?

Life cycles are happening around us. If you notice a bird's nest full of eggs or a butterfly floating by, those are life cycles in action! Next time you go outside, see if you can find other organisms in different stages of the life cycle.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Simplify Science™

Life Cycles

Reading Comprehension

1. How does the author support the idea that all organisms go through the same life cycle?
a. by defining the word “organism”
b. by giving examples of different organisms at each stage of the cycle
c. by describing how a butterfly emerges from a chrysalis
d. by explaining what a sunflower seed needs to grow

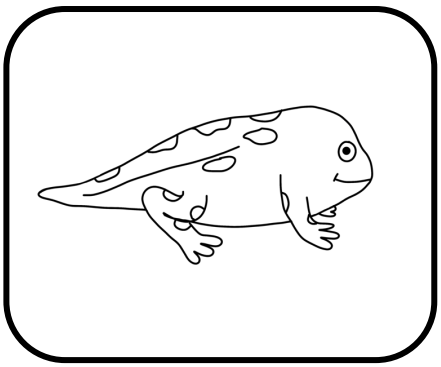
2. Which of the following is NOT an example of an organism?
a. soil
b. butterfly
c. sunflower
d. bird

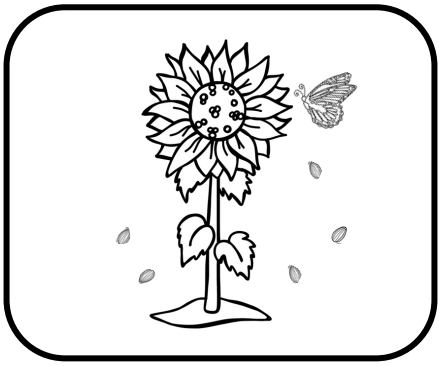
3. What is the most likely meaning of the word “mature”?
a. living thing
b. young
c. dead
d. fully grown

4. What is the correct order of the stages in a life cycle?
a. reproduction, growth, death, birth
b. birth, growth, death, reproduction
c. birth, growth, reproduction, death
d. birth, reproduction, growth, death

5. How is the information under the heading “All Life Cycles are Similar” organized?
a. cause/effect
b. problem/solution
c. compare/contrast
d. sequence

6. Use the information in the passage to label the life cycle stage shown in each picture.





_____ _____ _____

7. How are a sunflower sprout and a caterpilla[illegible]lar [illegible] different? Use evidence from the passage to support your [illegible]nkin[illegible]

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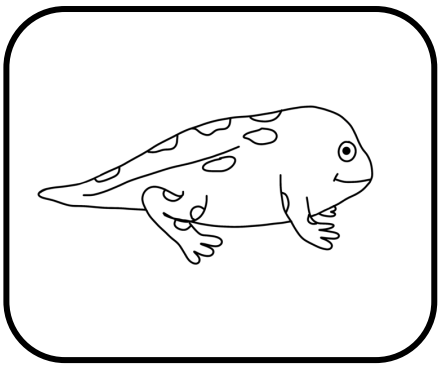
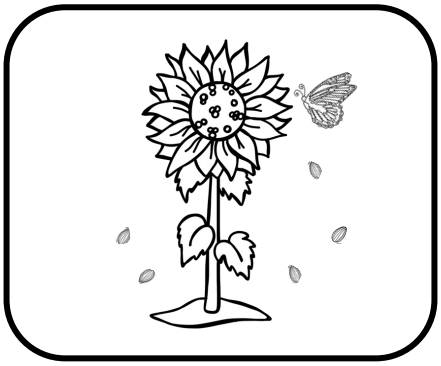


growth



reproduction

birth

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A sunflower sprout and a caterp[illegible] are [illegible] because they are both organisms that are in th[illegible] row[illegible] stag[illegible] of their life cycles. A sunflower sprout is growin[illegible] m[illegible] a sun[illegible]owe[illegible]nd a caterpillar is growing into a butterfly. H[illegible]veve[illegible] they are also different because they both need diff[illegible]t th[illegible]s to help them grow. A caterpillar needs to ea[illegible] leav[illegible]s, b[illegible] sun[illegible]lower sprout needs water, sun, and soil.