



Subject	Science	Theme	Living things & their habitats - Life Cycles	Term	Spring 1
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What should I already know?

- The seven life processes which make things 'living': movement, respiration, sensitivity, growth, **reproduction**, excretion, nutrition (Y4)
- Animals have a number of systems which allow them to live (musculoskeletal – Y3, digestive – Y4)
- The basic structure of a variety of common flowering plants
- The part that flowers play in the life cycle of flowering plants, including pollination, seed formation and dispersal
- Animals have offspring which grow into adults, plants create seeds (Y3/4)

Working Scientifically

- Recording results using scientific diagrams and labels (*plant dissection*)
- Presenting findings in written forms such as display (*life-cycle comparison*)
- Identify scientific evidence that has been used to support or refute ideas and arguments (*the work of D Attenborough and J Goodall*)

Enquiries & Investigations

- What are the different parts of a flower? Dissection to find and label the different parts of a flower (sexual reproduction)
- Can you clone a potato? Investigation into asexual reproduction in plants
- Do all animals grow up in the same way? Investigate and compare life-cycles of different animals (e.g. frogs, butterflies and mammals)
- How long before a baby's ready to be born? Research different mammals and compare gestation periods
- Learn about the work of key naturalists, David Attenborough and Dr Jane Goodall

What should I know by the end of the unit?

- Describe the differences in the life cycles of a mammal, an amphibian, an insect and a bird.
- Describe the life process of reproduction in some plants and animals.
- Understand that sexual reproduction needs two parents (all animals and some plants)
- Understand that some plants can reproduce from only one parent (asexual reproduction)
- Some life cycle differences between living things (e.g. frogs, butterflies and mammals), including how babies are born (i.e. egg, live young)

Silver Threads:

Process – Reproduction is a life process. How does the process work for certain plants and animals?

Changes – What changes take place during a living thing's life?

Structure – What is the structure of a flowering plant?

Significant Scientists

Sir David Attenborough (1926 -)



Dr Jane Goodall (1934-)



Key Vocabulary

Cell	The smallest part of an animal or plant that can function independently.
Embryo	An unborn animal or human being in the very early stages of development.
Fertilisation	Male and female cells fuse (join) to develop an embryo or seed.
Germination	Development of a plant from a seed if the right conditions are met.
Gestation	The length of a pregnancy.
Life Cycle	The journey of changes that take place throughout the life of a living thing, including birth, growing up and reproduction.
Metamorphosis	An abrupt and obvious change in the structure of an animal's body and their behaviour.
Pollination	The transfer of pollen from the male anther to the female stigma to allow fertilisation.
Reproduction	The process of new living things being made.