Life Cycles

Grade 3

Name _____ Date _____

Remember: All life cycles include **birth**, **growth**, **reproduction** and **death**. Some animals **hatch from eggs**; most mammals are **born alive**.

Remember: cycle means circle. The life cycle keeps going around.

The Circle of Life



Every living thing has a **life cycle**. All life cycles have the same main stages: **birth**, **growth**, **reproduction** (having young) and **death**.

Many animals start life inside an **egg**. Birds, reptiles, fish, amphibians and insects all hatch from eggs. A baby chick grows inside its egg for about three weeks before hatching.

Most **mammals** are born **alive** instead. A baby kangaroo, called a joey, is tiny at birth and grows inside its mother's pouch. Puppies, kittens and human babies are born alive too.

Some young look like small adults, like puppies. Others change a lot as they grow, like tadpoles. But every life cycle continues when adults have young of their own.

1. Check your understanding

Circle the best answer.

1. **Which is a stage in every life cycle?** (a) Growth (b) Flying (c) Swimming

2. **What does reproduction mean?** (a) Eating (b) Having young (c) Sleeping

3. **How are most mammals born?** (a) From eggs (b) Alive (c) From seeds

4. **Where does a baby kangaroo grow?** (a) In a nest (b) In an egg (c) In its mother's pouch

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2. Egg or born alive?

Circle how each animal starts life.

1	robin	hatches from an egg	born alive
2	puppy	hatches from an egg	born alive
3	turtle	hatches from an egg	born alive
4	kangaroo	hatches from an egg	born alive
5	salmon	hatches from an egg	born alive
6	horse	hatches from an egg	born alive

3. Think like a scientist

Answer in a complete sentence.

1. **Why is it called a life CYCLE and not a life line?**

Answer Key

Life Cycles · Grade 3

1. Check your understanding

1. **Which is a stage in every life cycle?** (a) **Growth** (b) Flying (c) Swimming
2. **What does reproduction mean?** (a) Eating (b) **Having young** (c) Sleeping
3. **How are most mammals born?** (a) From eggs (b) **Alive** (c) From seeds
4. **Where does a baby kangaroo grow?** (a) In a nest (b) In an egg (c) **In its mother's pouch**

2. Egg or born alive?

		hatches from an egg	born alive
1	robin	●	○
2	puppy	○	●
3	turtle	●	○
4	kangaroo	○	●
5	salmon	●	○
6	horse	○	●

3. Think like a scientist

Sample answer.

1. **Why is it called a life CYCLE and not a life line?**
   Because it repeats: adults have young, and the young grow up and have young of their own.