Reproduction and lifecycles – from plants to people and beyond

KEY VOCABULARY

Asexual reproduction	One parent is needed to create offspring, which is an exact copy of the parent
Fertilise	The action of fusing the male and female sex cells in order to develop an egg
Gestation	The length of a pregnancy
Life cycle	The journey 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 to a stigma to allow fertilization
Reproduction	The process of new living things being made
Sexual reproduction	Two parents are needed to make offspring which are similar but not identical to either parent
Evolve	How a living thing changes and adapts over time.
Embryo	An embryo is the earliest stage in the development of a fertilised egg. It is the term used for any animal or plant, from the first cell division until birth, or hatching, or germination in plants.
Habitat	A habitat is a place that an animal lives. It provides the animal with food, water and shelter.
Endangered	A species of plant or animal that is in danger of becoming extinct

Humans develop inside their mothers and are dependent on their parents for many years until they are old enough to look after themselves.

Amphibians such as frogs are laid in eggs then, once hatched, go through many changes until they become an adult.

Some animals, such as butterflies, go through metamorphosis to become an adult.

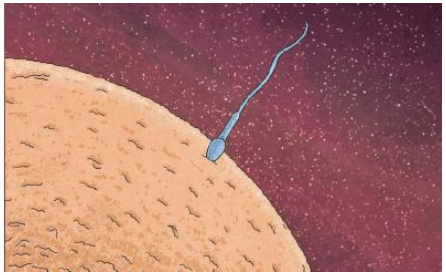
Birds are hatched from eggs and are looked after by their parents until they are able to live independently.

Jane Goodall

Jane Goodall is a British scientist who has studied chimpanzees for many years. She is considered to be the world expert on chimpanzees and their behaviour. She found that the chimpanzees had strong family bonds that would last for the whole of the chimpanzees' lives. She observed family members hugging, kissing, patting each other on the back, and even tickling each other!

Metamorphosis

Metamorphosis is a process by which animals undergo an abrupt and obvious change in the structure of their body and their behaviour.
Some animals undergo complete metamorphosis, in which they completely transform. Other animals experience incomplete metamorphosis, where they go through several different stages, with each stage getting bigger than the last.



Reproduction in mammals

Mammals use sexual reproduction to produce their offspring.
The male cell (sperm) fertilizes the female cell (egg). The fertilised cell will form a baby with a heart. The baby will grow inside the female until the end of gestation.

Plant reproduction

Most plants contain both the male sex cell (pollen) and the female sex cell (ovules), but most plants don't fertilise themselves. Wind and insects help to transfer pollen to a different plant. The pollen from the stamen of one plant is transferred to the stigma of another. The pollen then travels down a tube through the style and fuses with an ovule. Some plants, such as strawberry plants, potatoes and daffodils use asexual reproduction to create. They are identical to the parent plant.