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.
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

Different Life Cycles

Mammals (including humans)
Mammals and humans develop inside their mothers and are dependent on their parents for many years until they are old enough to look after themselves.

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

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

Insects
Insects are hatched from eggs, then go through many changes until they become adult.

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 which 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).
Wind and insects help to transfer pollen to a different plant. The pollen from one plant is transferred to another. The pollen travels down a tube and fuses with an ovule (egg).
Some plants, such as strawberry plants, potatoes and daffodils use asexual reproduction to create a new plant. They are identical to the parent plant.
Other plants use sexual reproduction. The new plant is similar to but Not identical to the parent plants.