

Name: _____



Life Cycles



After you were born did you stay the same? When a seed is planted, does it stay the same? When a egg is hatched, does it stay that way forever? Of course not. The main difference between living and non living things is that living thing grow through stages of change and growth. Non living things do not. All living things grow and change throughout their lives until they reach the end of life. A life cycle refers to the changes through growth and development that all living things go through. The cycle doesn't end at death, because new ones replace them and the species continues on with the cycle. During the life cycle, living things change and develop. Life cycles of animals will be different than plants, trees and flowers but they will both grow and change over time. If plants and flowers and trees didn't reproduce seeds, the life cycle would end. If animals didn't produce eggs or newborns, their life cycles would end. Many plants begin their life cycle as seeds and as they get water, sunlight and nutrition from the soil, they begin to grow and change. Those very large oak trees once started as a small acorn! Many animals like frogs, insects and birds begin as an egg that hatches. Once, hatched, it needs food, water and air to grow and change. When the egg from a frog hatches, it begins as a tadpole and looks like a tiny fish before it grows and changes into a frog. This change is called metamorphosis. Other animals like cats, dogs and horses begin as babies or an offspring from their parent. To grow, they too need nutrition, water and air. Humans begin as babies, who become toddlers, then teenagers before developing and changing into an adult. All living things grow and go through changes throughout their life cycle. All living things grow and change over time, they grow, they reproduce, they change and they die, these stages are called the life cycle.

QUESTIONS:

- ① In your own words, define life cycle.
- ② What three things are needed for the life cycle of living things to happen?
- ③ How is your life cycle similar and different than a plant or tree?
- ④ Name three ways that living things begin their lifecycle as.
- ⑤ Describe three changes you have gone through since birth.