

Key Stage 2

Lifecycles

Learning objective:	To be able to describe the different lifestyle stages of birds, mammals, insects and amphibians and know the differences between each group.
You will need:	The Lifecycle poster with each element cut out separately, card, scissors, a copy of the book Monkey Puzzle by Julia Donaldson.
Activity:	Pupils will identify the stages in the lifecycle of different animal types and look at the differences between them.
Starter:	<p>Ask if anyone remembers the children's book Monkey Puzzle. Discuss the story line and then turn to the end of the book where the butterfly says: "You never told me she looks like you! I didn't know. I couldn't! You see... None of my babies looks like me."</p> <p>Ask the pupils why they think this is? What other animals can they think of where the young don't look like the adult?</p>
Development:	<p>In pairs, have the pupils write ten words each of young and adult animal forms on cards, e.g. frog, tadpole, maggot, fly, bird, egg, lizard, cub, tiger, kitten, rabbit etc. Have them cut the cards out and give one half to their opposite pair. Then play "lifecycle snap" - the rules of snap but when two from the same lifecycle come up, such as egg and bird, they have to say "lifecycle snap" and set that pair aside until they have no cards left.</p> <p>Put the pairs into fours and give each group a set of the life cycle parts cut out from the poster, all mixed up. Ask them to sort the elements into young, growing and adult.</p> <p>Can they put the parts together to make a whole lifecycle? How long do they think each lifecycle takes? What is similar and different about each lifecycle?</p>
Plenary:	Look at the lifecycle poster. Can they name which "animal type" is featured. Can they name other animal types from within those groups.
Further activities:	Create lifecycle wheels as a classroom display. Write metamorphosis on the board and give pupils five minutes to make as many words as they can from it.