HOW ANIMALS GROW AND CHANGE

Animals have certain traits which help them survive in their environment. These survival traits are called **adaptations**. Many adaptations are **inherited**, which means they are passed on from the parents of animal. Many animals have adaptations for eating such as the way a bird's beak is shaped.

Animal ... ... oison in their ...

Lesson Checkpoint: What is an inherited trait?

Life Cycles

Animal grow and develop in many different ways as well. All animals grow and develop throughout their life cycle. A **life cycle** describes the stages an animal goes through from birth to death. Some vertebrates change their appearance a lot during their life cycle while others hardly change at all.

It All Starts with an Egg

The life of every animal starts off as an egg. Some animal babies develop from an egg INSIDE its mother and are then delivered as a live young. Other animals lay eggs OUTSIDE the mother's body. The mother lays the eggs, the young develops inside the egg and then the eggs hatch after the young are developed and ready to be born.

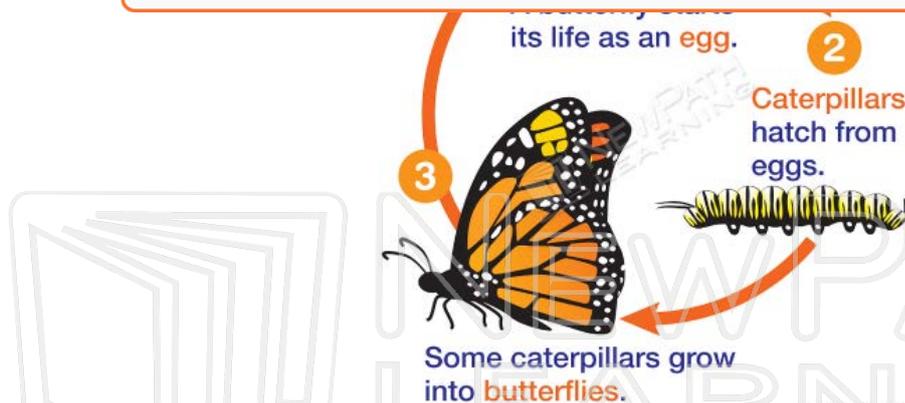*Lesson Checkpoint: What is a life cycle?*

The Butterfly's Unique Life Cycle

The life cycle of a butterfly is unique.

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PREVIEW

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A butterfly starts its life as an egg.

2 Caterpillars hatch from eggs.

3

Some caterpillars grow into butterflies.

Lesson Checkpoint: What does a caterpillar need to do during the larva stage in order to survive?

The Frog's Life Cycle

Amphibians are vertebrates that change a lot during their life cycle, like the many changes a frog goes through during its life cycle.

A frog has four main stages of its life cycle.

- An adult frog lays her **eggs** in the water.
- **Tadpoles** soon hatch from the eggs that the adult female laid.
- The newly hatched tadpole soon begins to lose its tail and **grows legs** back ones first than the front ones.
- Soon the tadpole becomes an **adult** with full-developed front and back legs and fully developed lungs. Adult frogs then live both on land and in water.

Lesson Checkpoint: Where does an adult frog lay its eggs?

How Animals Survive

Animals need food, water, oxygen, and shelter to survive. Animals eat plants or other animals, or sometimes both, in order to survive. Animals get oxygen from the air or in water, which they need in order to survive. Many animals breathe through their lungs, but animals that live in water, such as fish, breathe with their gills.

Lesson Checkpoint: Where do animals get oxygen from?

Shelter as Protection

Animals need **shelter** to protect themselves from bad weather and from animals that may eat them or harm them. Many animals have to build their own shelters, such as a bird that builds its own nest. Some animals, such as turtles and snails, carry their shelter right on their backs.

Other

Many animals have certain body characteristics that are used for protection such as **camouflage.** Some animals, such as rabbits, use their fur to blend in to their surroundings. This way, they are not always seen by predators. And some predators, such as snakes, use camouflage so that they are not seen before they catch their prey. A timber snake looks like a stick in the forest until it strikes to catch a field mouse.

Many animals also use **mimicry** to protect themselves. Some flies without stingers, for example, look and sound like bees with stingers and they confuse their predators into thinking that they would be painful to eat or attack. The flies use mimicry to keep safe from more predators.

Lesson Checkpoint: What is camouflage?