

# ANIMAL GROWTH AND REPRODUCTION

## Life Cycles

A **life cycle** is the stages of development an organism goes through starting from an **egg** to growing into an **adult**. Living organisms each have their own unique way of reproducing, giving birth, growing, and developing.

Organisms such as mammals and birds have simple life cycles. These organisms look similar to their parents when they are born. Many organisms, however, have complex life cycles and do not look like their parents when they are born.

### Lesson Checkpoint: What is a life cycle?

Metar  
Metar  
appear

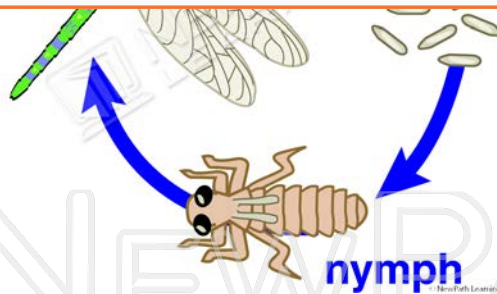
Organi  
stages



three

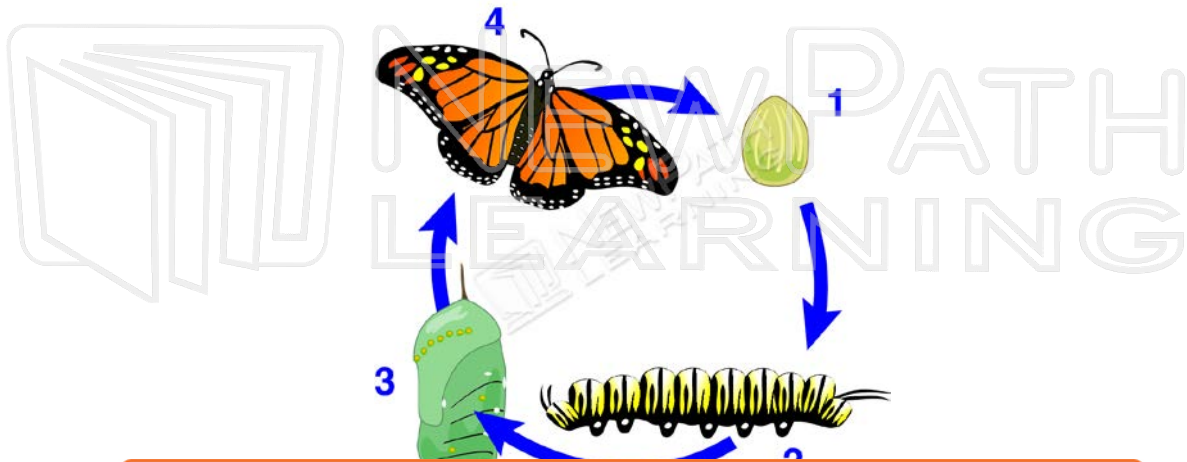
**PREVIEW**

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### Lesson Checkpoint: What are the three stages of development in incomplete metamorphosis?

Organisms that go through **complete metamorphosis** go through four stages of development while include: egg, larva, pupa, and adult.



Most in



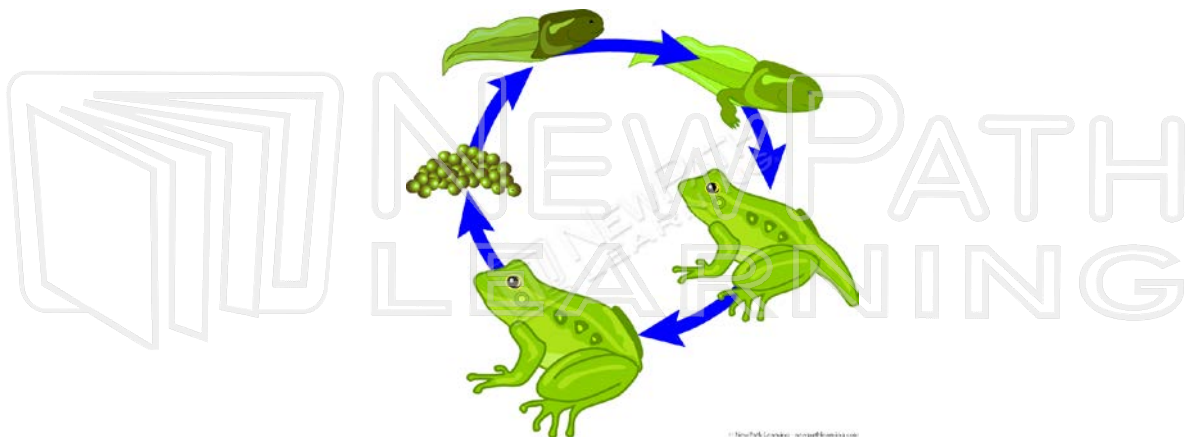
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Animal

- Many animals are born inside their mothers' bodies.
- Other animals are born from eggs and develop outside their mothers' bodies.

Animal life cycles vary in how long they take. Some animals have short life cycles while others take longer.



## Reproduction

Organisms also reproduce in several different ways. **Reproduction** is the creation of a **new individual** or individuals from existing individual or individuals.

### Fertilization

Fertilization is the **union** of a male sperm and a female egg to form an offspring. This is one way animals reproduce. Internal fertilization takes place **inside** an organism.

Fertilization does NOT need to take place in every organism in order for reproduction to occur. A **single** individual can produce offspring without fertilization from another organism without fertilization taking place. This is called **asexual reproduction**.

Some asexual reproduction occurs through binary fission, budding, and vegetative propagation.

**External fertilization** occurs when the male and female gametes are released into the environment and fertilization takes place outside the body of the parent.

**Budding** is a form of asexual reproduction in which a new individual grows out of the parent's body.

Some organisms live

asexually



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If a piece of a parent is **detached**, and it can grow and develop into a completely new individual, this process is known as **regeneration**. Some types of worms and starfish can regenerate in this way.

### Lesson Checkpoint:

**What are two ways an organism can reproduce asexually, without fertilization occurring?**

## Traits

Animals have both inherited and acquired traits. An **inherited trait** is a characteristic or quality that an organism is born with. An **acquired trait** is a trait one learns through its experiences but is not born with.

**Heredity** is the passing of traits and characteristics from parents to their offspring.

### *Lesson Checkpoint:*

*What is the difference between an acquired and inherited trait?*



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