

Life Cycles of Living Things: A Scientific Report

Learning objective: To describe the differences in the life cycles of a mammal, an amphibian, an insect, and a bird.

Use this scaffold to write your scientific report. Nova the owl suggests you research the life cycles of a human, a frog, a butterfly, and a robin before you begin. Ensure you use scientific vocabulary to explain how each creature reproduces and grows.

Living things have unique life cycles, which are the different stages an organism passes through from birth to adulthood and reproduction.

Word bank: metamorphosis · reproduction · gestation · mammal · amphibian · offspring · consequently · furthermore · in contrast · initially · similarly

1. Introduction: Define what a life cycle is and explain why reproduction is essential for the survival of a species. Start with: 'A life cycle is the series of changes...' (2 marks)

2. Mammals and Birds: Compare how mammals and birds care for their young. Use the word 'whereas' to contrast them. Start with: 'Mammals and birds have different methods of rearing offspring...' (3 marks)

3. Amphibians and Insects: Describe the process of metamorphosis. Explain how a frog or butterfly changes throughout its life. Start with: 'Some animals, such as amphibians and insects, undergo a process called...' (3 marks)

4. Comparison: Identify one major similarity between all the life cycles you have researched. Start with: 'Despite their differences, all these life cycles share...' (2 marks)

5. Conclusion: Summarise why understanding life cycles helps us protect living things. Start with: 'Studying these patterns is important because...' (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Choose one animal from your report and create a detailed, labelled diagram showing each stage of its life cycle. Include a small 'fact file' box next to your drawing explaining how long each stage lasts.