

# Life Cycle Explorer: Observing Living Things with Bea the Bee

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

Help Bea the Bee collect important scientific data! Choose one animal from each of the four groups listed below. Research their life cycles and fill in the boxes to show how they grow and change from birth to adulthood. Use your best scientific vocabulary to explain the key stages.

*Word bank: metamorphosis · mammal · amphibian · gestation · larva · incubation · offspring · adaptation · reproduction*

**1. Mammal Life Cycle: Choose a mammal (e.g., a fox). Describe how the offspring is born and how it develops into an adult. (3 marks)**

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**2. Amphibian Life Cycle: Choose an amphibian (e.g., a frog). Explain the process of metamorphosis from egg to adult. (3 marks)**

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**3. Insect Life Cycle: Choose an insect (e.g., a butterfly or beetle). Detail the different stages of its life cycle. (3 marks)**

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**4. Bird Life Cycle: Choose a bird (e.g., an owl). Describe the incubation period and how the chick changes as it grows. (3 marks)**

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**5. Comparison: Which two of these life cycles are the most similar? Explain your reasoning using evidence from your notes. (2 marks)**

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*Extension challenge: Choose one of your animals and create a 'Life Cycle Timeline' on a separate sheet of paper. Include labels for each stage and calculate how long each stage typically lasts in the wild.*