

Life Cycles and Reproduction: A Fact-File with Nova the Owl

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

Join Nova the Owl on a scientific mission! Research the life cycles of different animal groups and use this template to organise your findings. Remember to think about how each animal produces offspring and how they grow from birth to adulthood.

Word bank: reproduction · offspring · metamorphosis · mammal · amphibian · life cycle · gestation · larva · pupa · embryo

1. Mammals: Choose a mammal and describe how they reproduce. How do they care for their offspring during the early stages of life? (3 marks)

2. Amphibians: Explain the life cycle of an amphibian, such as a frog. What major changes happen during their development? (3 marks)

3. Insects: Describe the process of metamorphosis in an insect. What are the main stages an insect goes through? (3 marks)

4. Birds: How is the reproduction of a bird different from a mammal? Think about where the offspring develops. (2 marks)

5. Comparison: Nova wants to know: what is one thing that all of these animals have in common regarding their life cycles? (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Choose one animal from your fact-file and draw a labelled circular diagram showing the stages of its life cycle. Add a short note explaining one interesting fact about how the parents help the offspring survive.