

The Incredible Journey of Human Growth: A Scientific Report

Learning objective: To describe the changes as humans develop from infancy to old age, using scientific vocabulary and structured report writing.

Use this scaffold to write a detailed report about the human life cycle. Ensure you use the word bank to help link your ideas, and remember to justify your scientific observations with clear reasoning.

The human life cycle is a fascinating biological process that involves a series of complex developmental stages from birth to old age.

Word bank: consequently · furthermore · subsequently · significant · developmental milestones · adolescence · gradual · profound · biological · independence

1. Introduction: Define what the human life cycle is. Start by writing: The life cycle of a human is a continuous process of growth and change... (2 marks)

2. Infancy and Childhood: Describe the physical and cognitive changes during these early stages. Start by writing: During infancy, the most significant changes include... (3 marks)

3. Adolescence: Explain the physical and emotional shifts that occur. Start by writing: Adolescence acts as a bridge between childhood and adulthood; during this time... (3 marks)

4. Adulthood and Senescence: Compare the needs of an adult to those of an elderly person. Start by writing: As humans reach adulthood, they gain greater independence, yet as they enter old age... (3 marks)

5. Justification: Explain why humans require such a long period of childhood compared to other mammals. Consider the complexity of brain development. Start by writing: It is essential that humans have a prolonged period of growth because... (4 marks)

6. Conclusion: Summarise the importance of healthy living throughout these stages. Start by writing: In conclusion, maintaining a healthy lifestyle is crucial because... (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Nova the owl has been observing human families in the park. She asks: 'If humans stopped growing at age 12, how might society be different?' Write a persuasive paragraph explaining the potential consequences for civilisation if humans did not experience the physical and cognitive growth associated with adolescence and adulthood.