

Nova's Life Cycle Investigation: From Infancy to Adulthood

Learning objective: To describe the changes as humans develop to old age, focusing on the stages of human growth and development.

Nova the Owl is observing how humans grow and change over time. Below is a list of developmental milestones. Your task is to sort these milestones into the correct life stage: Infancy, Childhood, Adolescence, or Adulthood. Once sorted, justify your placement for the more complex stages.

Word bank: Puberty · Learning to crawl · Learning to read · Developing independence · Learning to walk · Physical maturity · Transitioning to secondary school · Taking on career responsibilities

1. Sort the items from the word bank into the four life stages. Explain why 'Puberty' is a significant turning point between childhood and adulthood. (4 marks)

2. Compare and contrast the physical abilities of an infant and an adult. Why is this comparison important for understanding human development? (3 marks)

3. Justify your answer: Why is the stage of 'Adolescence' often described as a period of rapid emotional and physical change compared to 'Adulthood'? (3 marks)

4. Explain why the human brain continues to develop well into a person's twenties, even after they have reached their full physical height. (2 marks)

5. What might happen if a human were to skip the 'Childhood' stage of development? Consider social and physical factors in your answer. (3 marks)

6. Nova notes that humans spend a long time in the 'Childhood' stage compared to other mammals. Why might this extended period of learning be beneficial for humans? (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a storyboard showing four panels. Each panel should represent a different stage of a human's life: Infancy, Childhood, Adolescence, and Adulthood. Include one detail in each drawing that represents a new skill or responsibility learned at that stage.



Extension challenge: Research the average cost of raising a child until they are 18. If a parent spends £150 per month on essential needs, calculate the total cost over 18 years. How does this 'investment' support the human life cycle?