

The Incredible Human Journey: From Birth to Seniority

Learning objective: To describe the changes as humans develop to old age, focusing on the human life cycle.

Read the text carefully about human development and answer the questions below. Use your best handwriting and full sentences.

Nova the owl observed that human development is a remarkable, lifelong journey. It begins with gestation, followed by infancy, where humans are entirely dependent on their caregivers for survival and nourishment. As they transition through childhood, their physical stature increases and their cognitive abilities flourish. A significant milestone occurs during adolescence, a period defined by puberty, where the body undergoes rapid hormonal and physical transformations to prepare for maturity. By the time humans reach adulthood, they have usually attained physical peak and independence, often taking on responsibilities such as careers or raising their own families. Finally, humans enter the stage of seniority. During this phase, the body naturally slows down, and the skin may lose elasticity, yet this stage is often rich with wisdom and experience. Throughout every stage, from the first tentative steps of a toddler to the seasoned life of an elder, the human body is a masterpiece of biology, constantly adapting to the environment. Nova marvels at how every human passes through these distinct phases, each offering unique challenges and opportunities for growth and discovery.

Word bank: infancy · adolescence · puberty · adulthood · gestation · development · independence · seniority

1. Identify two physical or social changes that occur during the stage of adolescence. (2 marks)

2. What does the text suggest is the main difference between the stage of infancy and the stage of adulthood? (2 marks)

3. Explain why the author describes the human body as a 'masterpiece of biology'. (2 marks)

4. Infer why the author mentions that seniority is 'rich with wisdom and experience' despite the physical body slowing down. (2 marks)

5. Do you think the 'adulthood' stage is the most important part of the human life cycle? Justify your answer using evidence from the text. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a circular timeline showing the four main stages of the human life cycle: _____ Infancy, Childhood, Adulthood, and Seniority. Include one detail for each stage mentioned in the text.



Extension challenge: Compare and contrast the human life cycle with the life cycle of a plant or another animal. What are the key similarities and differences in how they develop? Create a table to present your findings and justify why you think these differences exist.