

Nova's Human Lifecycle Investigation

Learning objective: To identify, describe, and understand the changes that occur throughout the human lifecycle, from infancy to old age.

Read each question carefully and use your knowledge of human growth and development to provide detailed, scientific explanations.

Nova the owl is curious about how humans grow. Unlike owls, who grow their feathers and reach adulthood in a matter of months, humans go through a complex, years-long journey of physical, emotional, and social changes.

Word bank: Infancy · Puberty · Adolescence · Adulthood · Old age · Independence · Development · Biological

1. Nova wants to know what defines the 'Infancy' stage. Explain why human infants are entirely dependent on their caregivers for survival. (2 marks)

2. Describe the physical and emotional changes that typically occur during the stage of adolescence. Why is this period often considered a time of significant transition? (3 marks)

3. Compare and contrast the needs of a human in 'Adulthood' versus the needs of a human in 'Old age'. How do these priorities differ? (3 marks)

4. Justify your answer: Why is it important for humans to develop social skills throughout the different stages of their lives? (2 marks)

5. What might happen if a human skipped the 'Adolescence' stage of development? Consider both the biological and social impacts. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a multi-panel storyboard showing one person through four stages of their life: infancy, childhood, adulthood, and old age. Label each stage clearly.



Extension challenge: Research a historical figure. Create a timeline of their life, identifying which developmental stage they were in during their most significant achievements. Write a short paragraph explaining how their maturity at that age might have influenced their success.