

Nova's Guide to Life Cycles: Reproduction

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

Use this scaffold to help you write a report about how different animals reproduce and grow. Use the word bank to help you link your ideas together.

All living things have a life cycle, but the way they begin their journey into the world varies significantly across the animal kingdom.

Word bank: specifically · in contrast · consequently · furthermore · similarly · reproduction · offspring · metamorphosis · gestation

1. Introduction: Define what reproduction is and explain why it is essential for the survival of a species. Start with: 'Reproduction is the biological process by which...' (2 marks)

2. Mammals and Birds: Describe how mammals and birds differ in the way they produce their offspring. Start with: 'Mammals are unique because they give birth to live young, whereas birds...' (3 marks)

3. Amphibians and Insects: Explain the process of metamorphosis. Start with: 'Some animals, such as frogs and butterflies, undergo a dramatic change called metamorphosis. This process involves...' (3 marks)

4. Comparison: Choose two different animals and compare their life cycles. Start with: 'When comparing the life cycle of a [animal 1] to a [animal 2], it is clear that...' (3 marks)

5. Conclusion: Summarise the importance of these different life cycles for animal adaptation. Start with: 'In conclusion, the diverse methods of reproduction allow different species to...' (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Research a specific animal, such as a kangaroo or a dragonfly, and create a labelled diagram showing the stages of its life cycle to accompany your report.