



Knowledge Organiser	Subject: Understanding the World	Topic: Lifecycle of Animals (Farm)	Year: Reception
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What should I know?

That animals change from young to an adult.

Begin to name some of the lifecycles of a chick and a butterfly.

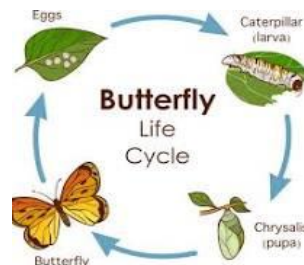
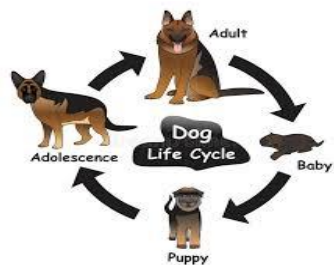
Key Questions

Do all baby animals look the same?

How do baby animals change?

Why is it important that animals have water?

Key Photographs



Interesting Facts

- Did you know that a hen can lay up to 300 eggs in one year?
- Calves can stand on their feet within a few hours of being born!
- A piglet can weigh just under 1 kg at birth, but they grow quickly and can weigh over 100 kg by six months old.
- Sheep have a very good memory; they can remember other sheep and even people for years!
- Chickens have unique vocalizations, and each sound has a different meaning to communicate with other birds.

Key Knowledge and Skills

To know that a lifecycle is the journey of a living thing from beginning to end.

To know that some animals give birth to live young and some animals lay eggs.

To know the lifecycle of different animals may be different.

To know that plants follow a set lifecycle.

To know that seeds can be dispersed by the wind, water, sticking to things,

exploding and being eaten by animals.

Important Events and Concepts

- Caterpillars turn into butterflies
- Tadpoles turn into frogs
- Eggs incubate and hatch, revealing an animal
- Plants need water, sun & soil to grow

1. **Egg Stage:** The lifecycle starts when a female animal lays eggs. For example, a hen lays eggs in a nest.
2. **Incubation:** The eggs are kept warm, either by the mother or in an incubator, for a specific period (about 21 days for chicken eggs).
3. **Hatching:** The baby animal breaks out of the egg; for chicks, this is called hatching.
4. **Chick Stage:** The chick grows and learns to eat and drink water from its surroundings, eventually growing feathers.
5. **Growing Up:** The chick develops into a hen or rooster (for chickens), a calf for cows, a piglet for pigs, or a lamb for sheep.
6. **Adulthood:** The animals reach maturity and can reproduce, continuing the lifecycle.

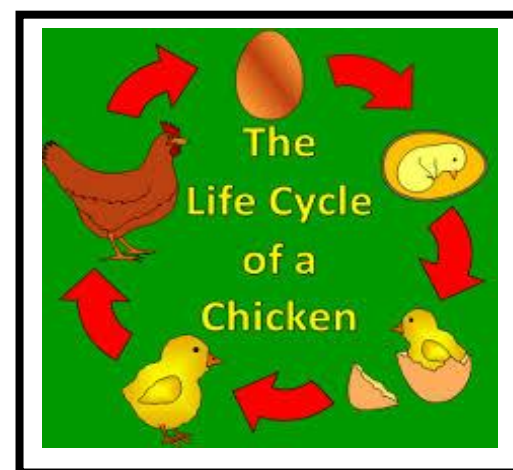
In Reception children will:

Explain how a range of creatures grow and change throughout their lives. •

Explain the process of plants growing from firsthand experience growing beans and cress in class. • Talk about different types of vegetables and fruit, explaining

	where they grow and describing what they taste like. • Draw and label various life cycles 1. Identify key stages in the lifecycle of at least one farm animal (like chickens, cows, pigs, or sheep). 2. Understand and explain the concept of hatching and growing up in simple terms. 3. Describe what a chick, calf, piglet, and lamb looks like at different stages of their growth. 4. Recognise the importance of caring for animals in a farm setting. 5. Express feelings about animals, such as cuddling them or caring for them, giving an understanding of empathy for living creatures.
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Key Vocabulary	
Egg	A round object produced by female animals, where some young animals develop.
Chick	A young bird, especially a young chicken.
Hatch	To break open an egg and come out, like a chick.
Farm	A place where animals are kept and grown for food, wool, and other products.
Lifecycle	The journey of a living thing from beginning to end.



Linking Thinking Across Our Learning Journey						
Early Years	Year One	Year Two	Year Three	Year Four	Year Five	Year Six
The natural world around them, making observations and drawing pictures of animals and plants. Know some similarities and differences between the natural world around them and contrasting environments, drawing on their experiences and what has been read in class. Understand some important processes and changes in the natural world around them, including the seasons and changing states of matter.	Describe and compare the structure of a variety of common animals (fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals, including pets).	Notice that animals, including humans, have offspring which grow into adults.		Recognise that living things (including those in the locality) can be grouped in a variety of ways.	Describe the differences in the life cycles of a mammal, an amphibian, an insect and a bird.	Classify animals into commonly found invertebrates (such as insects, spiders, snails, worms) and vertebrates (fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals). Describe how living things are classified into broad groups according to common observable characteristics based on similarities and differences, including microorganisms, plants and animals.