

Knowledge and Understanding:

Children will learn:

- In this module children build on earlier work from Key Stage 1 and from Year 3, where they learned about the life cycles of plants.
- They extend their understanding of what a life cycle is, and learn about the life cycles of some familiar (and some less familiar) mammals, amphibians, insects and birds.
- Children compare and contrast different life cycles, identifying common features as well as explaining key differences.
- They use their knowledge of life cycles to help them as they create a fantastical creature of their own, complete with its own distinct life cycle.
- They learn about incredible journeys that some animals undertake to complete their life cycles, and about the different ways in which humans are supporting some endangered animals to increase their population numbers.

Key Questions

How can we describe the life cycle of mammals?

How can we describe the life cycle of amphibians?

How can we describe the life cycle of insects?

How can we describe the life cycle of birds?

Key skills and concepts:

Children will be able to:

When working scientifically during this module, children frequently use secondary sources of information, as they carry out their own investigations to answer a variety of science questions, with increasing independence. This should involve the use of quality non-fiction books, web-based material etc and might include a visit to a local zoo.

Children report and present findings from their enquiries in a variety of ways, both orally and in written forms, drawing conclusions, identifying causal relationships and explaining their thinking. They consider evidence that has been used to support arguments, for example, as they learn about the work that has been done to protect the future of endangered animals.

Life cycles

All plants and animals have a life cycle but they are different depending on the type of animal or plant. Here are some examples:

