

Matching mammals and young



Badger

Cub



Deer

Fawn

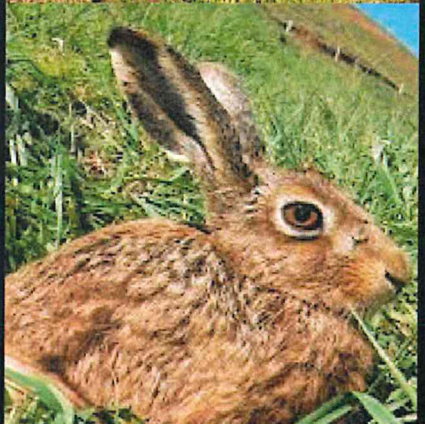


Fox

Cub





Kit

Pup



Hare

Leveret

	Hedgehog	Piglet Hoglet Pup
	Mole	Pup
	Mouse	Pup Pinkie Kitten
	Otter	Whelp Pup



Rabbit

Kitten



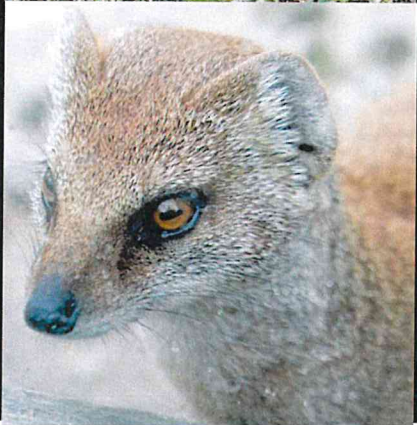
Rat

**Pup
Pinkie
Kitten**



Squirrel

**Pup
Kit
Kitten**

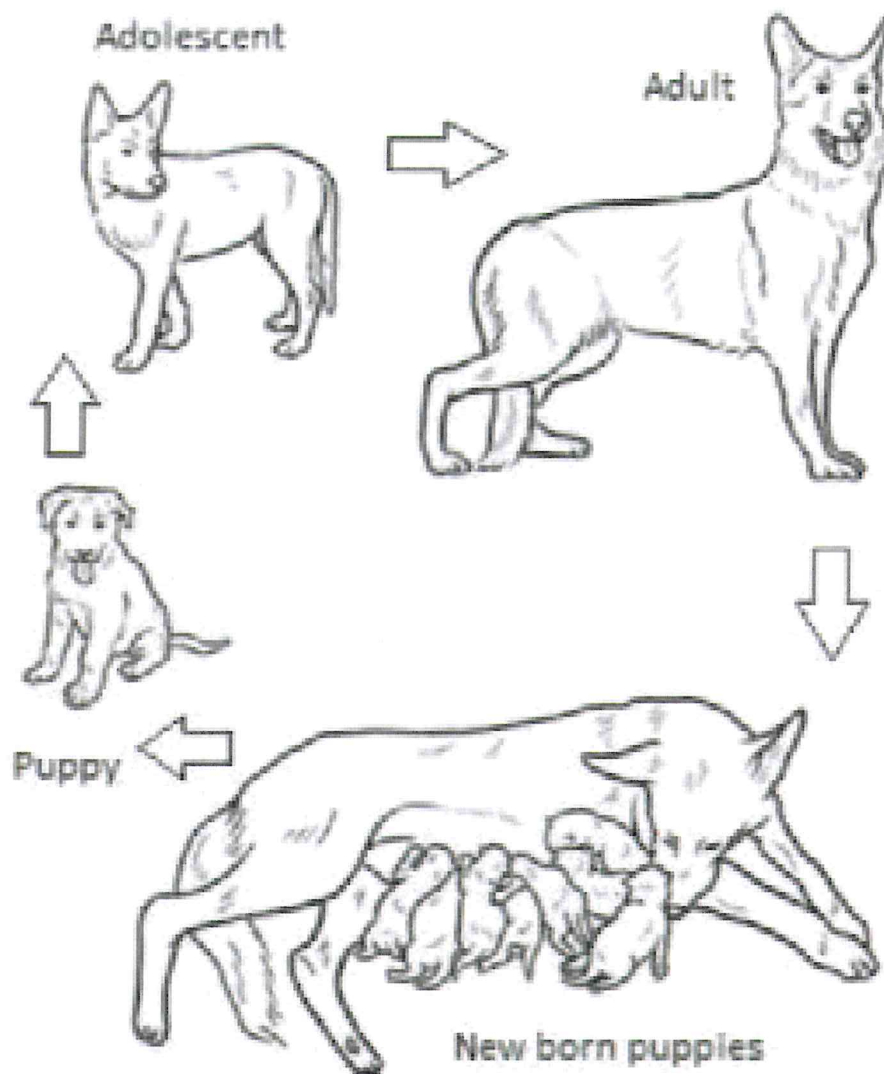


Weasel

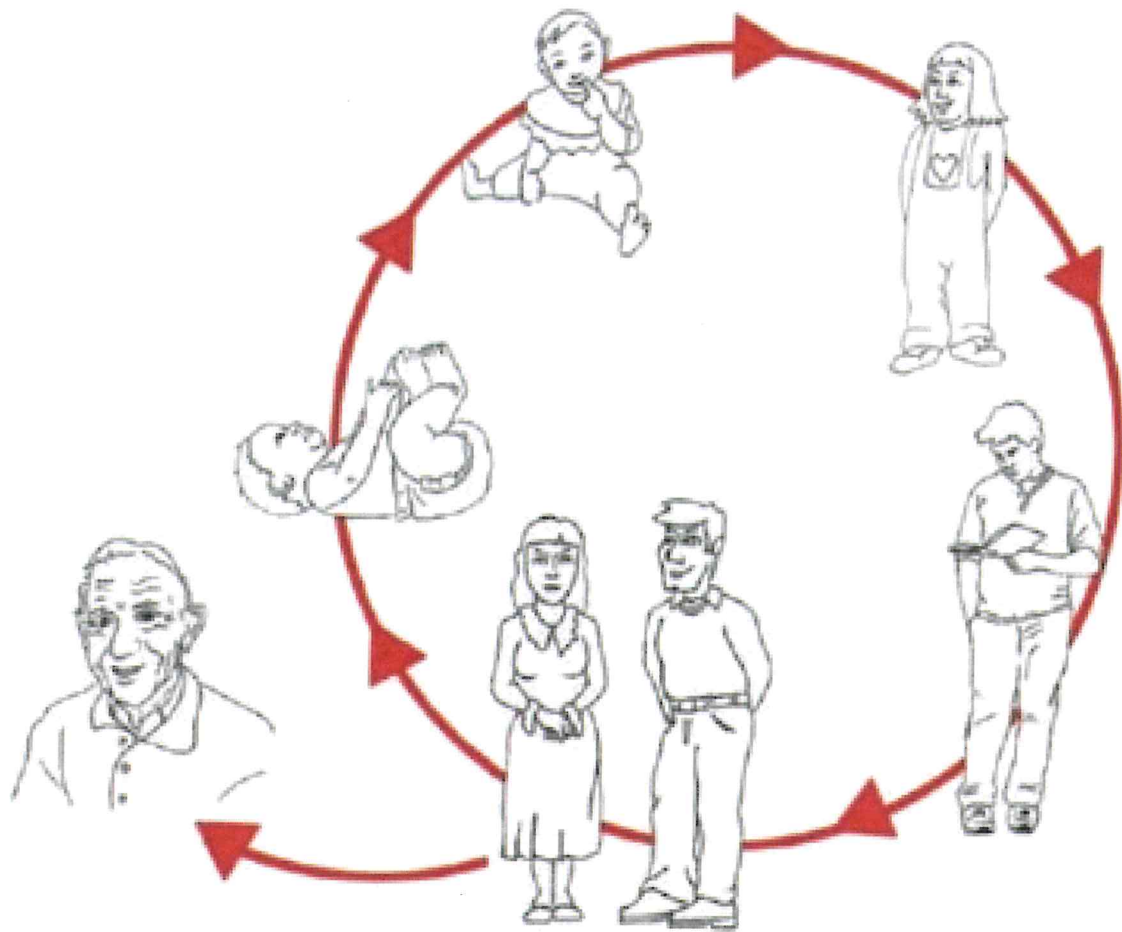
Kit

Mammalian and bird life cycles

Life Cycle of a Dog



Human Life Cycle



Key Facts Sheets

Mammals

These are warm-blooded animals that normally have hair (fur) on their bodies. They have live births (not eggs, in general – exceptions will be explored in the next session). Explain that mammals have a fairly simple life cycle and reproduce using sexual reproduction – once male (sperm) and female (egg) gametes come together through internal fertilisation, a foetus forms which remains in the mother's uterus for a gestation period (note that this varies from less than a month for a mouse to almost two years for an elephant).

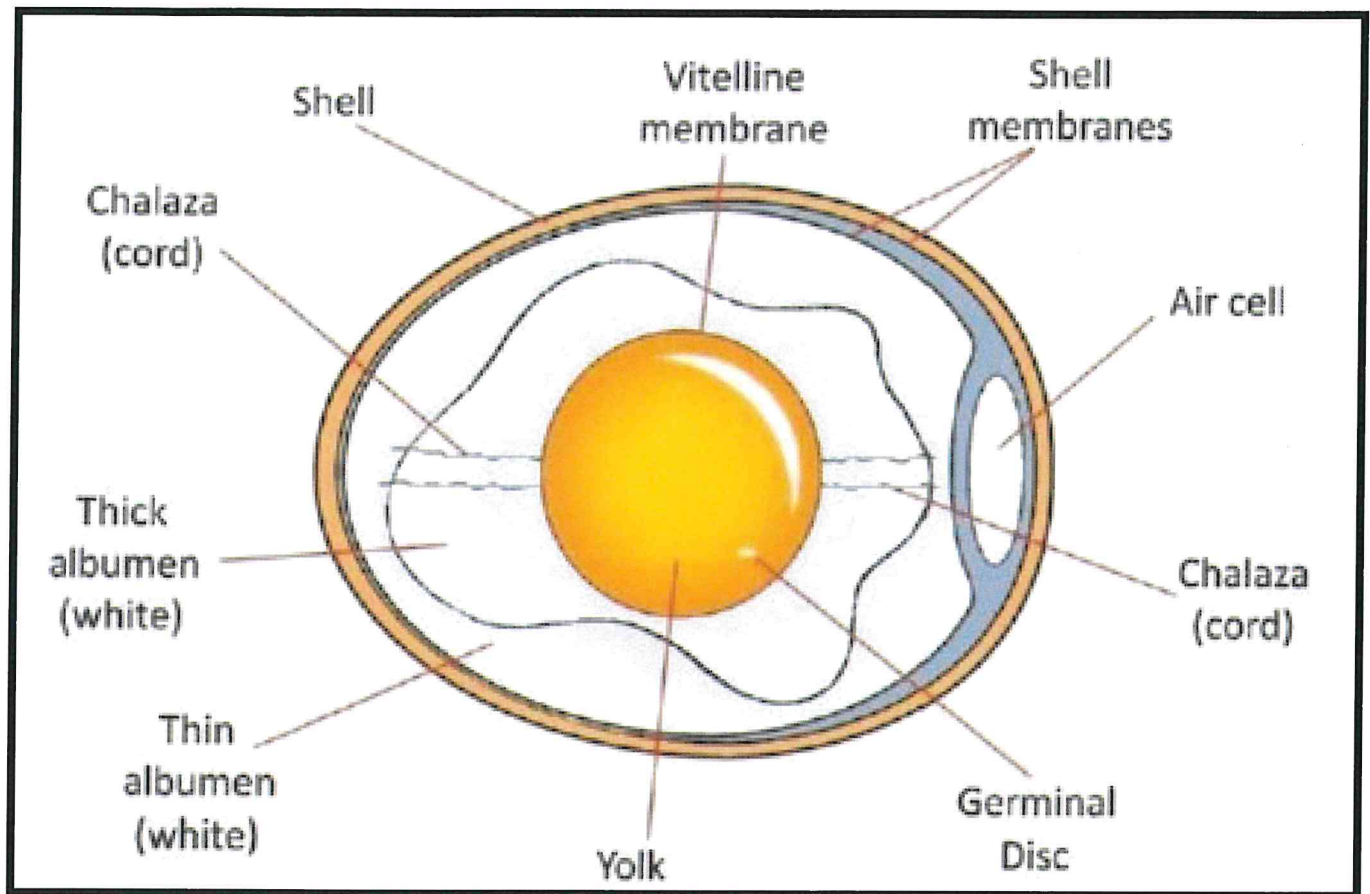
Birds

Birds are characterised by feathers, toothless beaked jaws and lightweight strong skeletons, and they all lay hard-shelled eggs. If an egg has been fertilised before it was laid (internal fertilisation) the germinal disc gradually grows into a chick using the nutrients stored in the yolk. The white protects the egg and the cords hold the yolk in place. The air cell/sac allows the bird to breathe just before it breaks out of its shell. There are tiny pores in the egg shell which allow air to enter.

Migration in swallows

Swallows breed in the northern hemisphere (including Britain) but fly south in winter, crossing the dangerous Sahara Desert, to reach South Africa. They then return to their breeding grounds the following spring. Other birds might migrate only within Britain, e.g. thrushes from Scotland migrating down to southern England. Migration is usually driven by the non-availability of food, which is often the result of climate and habitat changes during different seasons. Birds usually migrate in flocks.

The Structure of an Egg



Bird life cycle challenge

Cut out each statement and place around the room. Challenge children to view them all, sketch an image for each, and create a life cycle that references each statement.

Parents often continue feeding their young for several days after they have fledged, while their wing feathers and muscles develop further.

When it is ready to fly from the nest the bird is called a fledgling.

The hatchling is dependent on its parents for shelter, food and hygiene (nestling).

The baby bird (chick) hatches out using its egg tooth (a structure on the beak which drops off a few days later).

The parent birds usually take it in turns to sit on the eggs to protect them and keep them warm (incubation).

Fertilisation takes place before the egg is laid when a male and female bird come together.

The embryo develops inside the egg, which the mother lays in a nest.

Once it is fully grown, an adult bird is ready to mate.