Life Cycles

Classroom Program for Grades PreK-K

Students discover the basic needs of all living creatures as they investigate the life cycles of various animals. They get up close and personal with animals that go through metamorphosis as well as some that resemble their parents from the time they are hatched. Hands-on activities encourage excitement and understanding of the animals that share our planet.

Lesson: Learn about life cycles focusing on animal growth and development.

Conservation Message: All life on earth exists as part of an ecosystem.

Curriculum Objectives:

Tennessee Kindergarten students will apply the following **Science Grade Level Expectations**:

- The student will observe how plants and animals change and grow.
- The student will observe that offspring resemble their parents.

Tennessee PreK students will apply the following **Learning Expectations**:

- The student recognizes that living things are made up of parts.

Georgia Kindergarten students will apply the following **Science Performance Standards:**

- Students will compare the similarities and differences in groups of organisms.

Georgia PreK students will apply the following **Science Performance Indicators**:

- Students will observe, explore, and describes a wide variety of animals and plants.
- Students will understand that plants and animals have varying life cycles.

Alabama Kindergarteners students will apply the following **Science Course of Study Content Standards:**

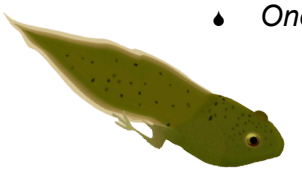
- Students will compare size, shape, structure and basic needs of living things.

Alabama PreK students will apply the **following Science and Environmental Education Standard Indicators:**

- Children will demonstrate knowledge of changes that plants and animals pass through during life cycles.

Common Core Connection: Extend the learning experience by adding some of these non-fiction literature suggestions to your lesson.

- *From Tadpole To Frog*, Kathleen Zoehfeld — ISBN 0545273374
- *Baby Birds,* Helen Frost — ISBN 073688193X
- *The Life Cycle of a Butteryfly*, Bobby Kalman — ISBN 077870680X
- *One Tiny Turtle,* Jane Chapman — ISBN 0763623113



Visit the Tennessee Aquarium Education Department's website

http://www.tnaqua.org/Education/

Life Cycles
Activity Sheet

Match the animals to the appropriate picture.

Amphibian - A group of animals characterized by slimy skin, eggs laid in water and undergoing metamorphosis including frogs, newts and salamanders.

Bird - A group of animals characterized by having feathers and laying eggs that they must incubate or keep warm before hatching.

Egg-tooth - Tooth or horny projection found on the end of the nose or beak of some birds, reptiles and other animals that hatch from eggs. The egg-tooth is used to crack the eggshell.

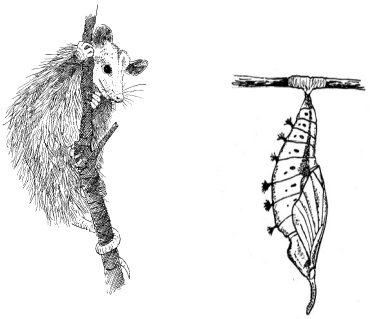
Habitat - A place where an animal lives and can find food, water, shelter and space.

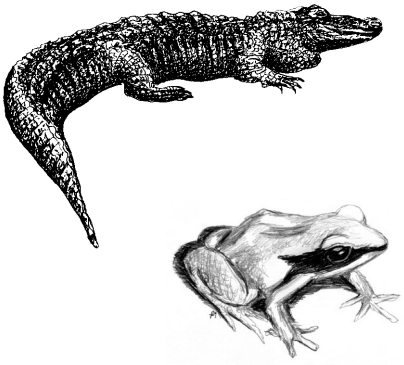
Larva - Newly hatched animals that undergo metamorphosis such as a caterpillar.

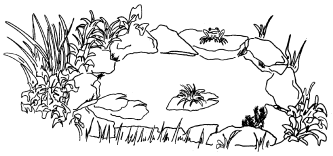
Mammal - A group of animals characterized by having hair and feeding their young with milk produced by the mother such as a dog, cat, beaver and human.

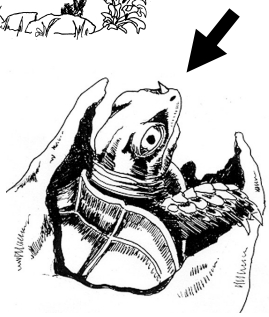
Pupa - The inactive stage in metamorphosis of many insects following the larval stage and before the adult stage in which the larva is enclosed in a protective case and changes into a new form (the chrysalis stage of a butterfly).

Reptile - A group of animals characterized by an external covering of scales such as a turtle, snake, alligator or lizard.









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