

# Life Cycles

## Stay at Home Field Study!



**Medina County  
Park District**

A life cycle is a series of changes that a living thing experiences during the course of its life as it is born, grows, and develops into an adult. In this field study, we learn that different kinds of organisms have different life cycles. Living things do not all change and develop the same way.

If an animal completely changes, its life cycle is called metamorphosis. Frogs are born in the water with tails and without legs. As they grow, they develop legs and lose their tails. Once the tail is completely gone, the frog becomes an adult that can live and hop on land.

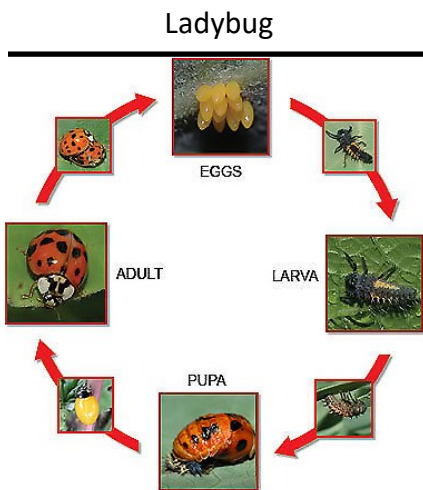
Insects may undergo complete or incomplete metamorphosis. Complete metamorphosis is the life cycle that a butterfly lives. The butterfly hatches from an egg into a larva, also known as a caterpillar. It then forms a pupa, or chrysalis, and, eventually, emerges as an adult butterfly with wings. Incomplete metamorphosis lacks a pupa stage. Grasshoppers undergo incomplete metamorphosis, hatching from eggs, going through several nymph stages (without wings), before becoming adults with wings.

Life cycles help animals as they grow. They provide animals with adaptations necessary for survival.

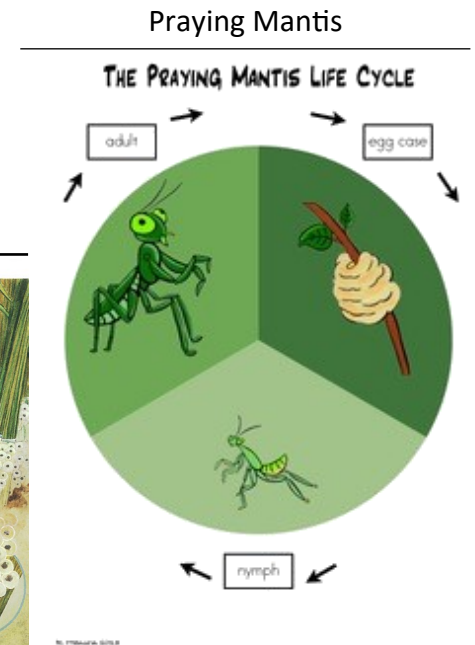
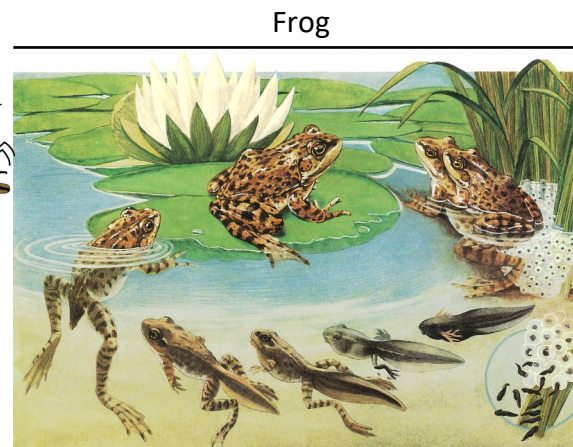
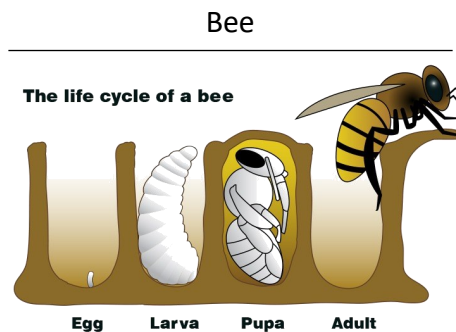
### Life Cycle Activities

Follow along for activities that you can do in your own home or backyard to learn about life cycles.

Take a look outside. Can you find examples of any of these lifecycles in your backyard?



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# The Game Of Frog Life Activity Sheet

1. Did you become a frog? \_\_\_\_\_

2. How many times did you have to start over? \_\_\_\_\_

3. If you had to start over, what happened?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Is it easy to become a frog? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. A frog undergoes metamorphosis to become an adult. Why does it have this name?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. What steps did the frog go through to become an adult and complete its life cycle? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## The Game of Frog Life Dice



You are a tadpole.



A fishing spider tries to eat you. Flip a coin: heads you live, tails you get eaten (return to start).

You eat yummy algae and grow a little bit bigger!

Your pool starts to freeze! Will you freeze? Flip a coin: heads you live, tails you freeze (return to start).

You grow back legs.



You eat more yummy algae and grow a bit bigger!

A green frog tries to eat you. Flip a coin: heads you live, tails you get eaten (return to start).

A raccoon thinks you look tasty. Flip a coin: heads you live, tails you get eaten (return to start).

# The Game of Frog Life

You find a nice, safe, patch of dead leaves at the bottom of your pool to hide in.

To play, you will need:

- Dice (See **The Game of Frog Life Activity Sheet**)
- A coin (quarter, dime, penny, or nickel)
- A pencil or pen
- **The Game of Frog Life Activity Sheet**
- A game piece: small toy, coin, paper clip, or other small item

You are an egg.



You eat even more algae and grow even bigger!

Call for a mate.



Game Play:

Start on "START." Roll the dice and move that many spaces forward. If you land on a "Flip a coin," space, flip a coin. If the coin lands on tails, go back to start to restart the life cycle. To win, make it to the "END" and become an adult frog, completing the frog lifecycle!

You grow front legs.



# START

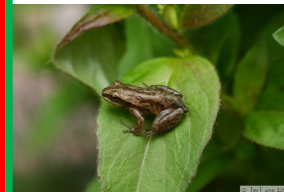
**END**  
You are an adult frog!



Your tail is gone, and you can sit out on a rock in the sun now!

You can start to leave the water now.

Your tail starts to disappear.



You eat even more algae and grow even bigger!

A heron flies in and tries to eat you. Flip a coin: heads you live, tails you get eaten (return to start).