

Year 5 - Living things and their habitats; Life cycles and reproduction

Key Vocabulary

Life cycle,	The sequence of changes that a living thing goes through as it grows and develops. Birth, growth, reproduction, aging, and death are all stages in the life cycle of an animal.
Reproduce	To have young or offspring.
Sexual	The processes of reproduction that require both a male and a female of a species.
Asexual	The ability to reproduce with one parent
Fertilises	The process that allows seeds, fruit, seeds, eggs, and babies to be produced.
Metamorphosis	A complete change in some living things as they grow.
Plantlets	Young plants.
Runners	a part of a plant that grows along the ground and sends roots into the ground.

Did you know?

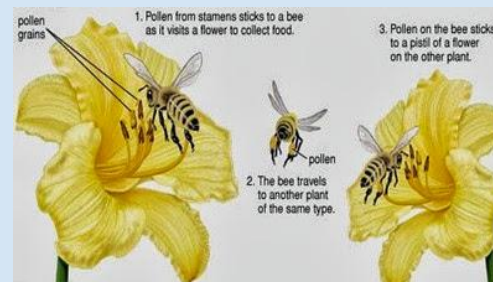
Unlike almost every other animal on the planet, it is the male seahorse that gives birth.

Asexual reproduction

Strawberry plants will send out multiple runners over the soil surface. Each runner has a tiny plant at its end, and these can be rooted and grown on to produce new plants. This is an example of asexual plant reproduction which involves only one parent.



Sexual reproduction in plants occurs through pollination, usually involving wind or insects.



Life cycles

As part of their life cycle, plants and animals reproduce. Animals, including humans, have offspring which grow into adults. In humans and some animals, these offspring will be born live, such as babies or kittens, and then grow into adults. In other animals, such as chickens or snakes, there may be eggs laid that hatch to young which then grow to adults. Some young undergo a further change before becoming adults, for example, caterpillars to butterflies. This is called a metamorphosis.

