

Life Cycle Detectives

Trace patterns across three living things.

3-LS1-1 "Develop models to describe that organisms have unique and diverse life cycles but all have in common birth, growth, reproduction, and death. Clarification Statement: Changes organisms go through during their life form a pattern..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline words or phrases that show a change in an organism's life. Number the stages in each paragraph in the order they happen.

Three Ways to Grow

- ① A life cycle shows the changes an organism goes through from the start of its life to the end. Different organisms follow different patterns. A monarch butterfly begins as a tiny egg on a milkweed leaf. It hatches into a caterpillar, which eats and grows. Next, it forms a chrysalis. An adult butterfly comes out, finds a mate, and lays eggs. Later, the adult dies.
- ② A frog's cycle looks very different. A frog begins as an egg in water. The egg hatches into a tadpole with a tail and gills. As the tadpole grows, it develops legs and lungs. Its tail becomes smaller. The young frog becomes an adult. Adult frogs reproduce by laying eggs in water. An adult frog eventually dies, but new eggs can begin another cycle.
- ③ A sunflower is a flowering plant with its own cycle. It starts as a seed. With water, air, and warmth, the seed sprouts. The plant grows roots, a stem, leaves, and then a flower. The flower can make seeds after pollination. Those seeds may grow into new sunflower plants. After the plant has lived its life, it dies. Its seeds can continue the pattern.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What happens between the caterpillar stage and the adult butterfly stage?

2 Name one change that happens as a tadpole becomes a young frog.

3 How does a sunflower flower help another life cycle begin?

4 What four life events do all three life cycles have in common?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Choose a different animal or a flowering plant. Draw a circular life-cycle model with at least four labeled stages and arrows. Include a stage for beginning life, growing, making new organisms, and dying.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline words or phrases that show a change in an organism's life. Number the stages in each paragraph in the order they happen. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What happens between the caterpillar stage and the adult butterfly stage?	The caterpillar forms a chrysalis.
2	Name one change that happens as a tadpole becomes a young frog.	It develops legs and lungs, or its tail becomes smaller.
3	How does a sunflower flower help another life cycle begin?	After pollination, the flower can make seeds that may grow into new sunflower plants.
4	What four life events do all three life cycles have in common?	Birth, growth, reproduction, and death.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Circular chicken model: Egg hatches into a chick → chick grows → adult chicken lays eggs → adult chicken dies. The eggs begin a new cycle.

Accept equivalent stage labels and sequences when they accurately show birth, growth, reproduction, and death. In the open model, accept any organism that is not one of the three in the passage and has arrows showing the life-cycle pattern.