

Life Cycle Detectives

Trace stages and compare how living things grow.

3.13.B “explore, illustrate, and compare life cycles in organisms such as beetles, crickets, radishes, or lima beans.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each bold life-cycle stage name. Then write 1, 2, 3, and so on beside the stage names in each paragraph to show the order of each cycle.

Three Ways to Grow

- ① The beetle life cycle has four stages. First, a female beetle lays an **egg**. Next, a **larva** hatches. A larva looks like a worm and eats often as it grows. Then the larva becomes a **pupa**. Inside the pupa, its body changes. Last, an **adult beetle** comes out. The adult can lay eggs, so the cycle starts again.
- ② A cricket has three stages, and its young look like small adults. First, an **egg** hatches into a **nymph**. The nymph has no wings and cannot reproduce. It eats, grows, and sheds its outer covering several times. Next, it becomes an **adult cricket** with wings. The adult reproduces and lays eggs. Unlike a beetle, a cricket does not have a pupa stage.
- ③ The lima bean life cycle has four stages. First, a **seed** gets water in warm soil. Next, the **germinating seed** opens, and a root and shoot begin to grow. Then the **seedling** grows leaves. Last, a **mature plant** makes flowers. The flowers grow into pods that hold new seeds. Those seeds can begin the cycle again.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Compare the number of stages in a beetle life cycle and a cricket life cycle.

2 What happens during a beetle pupa stage? What does a cricket nymph do instead?

3 Which two organisms begin their cycles as eggs and repeat their cycles when adults lay eggs?

4 Compare how the beetle cycle and the lima bean cycle repeat.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

In the three panels, draw a radish life cycle. Show and label a seed, a young plant with roots and leaves, and a mature plant with flowers and seeds. On the lines, write one sentence comparing the radish cycle with the lima bean cycle.

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PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each bold life-cycle stage name. Then write 1, 2, 3, and so on beside the stage names in each paragraph to show the order of each cycle. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Compare the number of stages in a beetle life cycle and a cricket life cycle.	A beetle has four stages. A cricket has three stages.
2	What happens during a beetle pupa stage? What does a cricket nymph do instead?	Inside a beetle pupa, the body changes. A cricket nymph eats, grows, and sheds its outer covering several times.
3	Which two organisms begin their cycles as eggs and repeat their cycles when adults lay eggs?	Beetles and crickets.
4	Compare how the beetle cycle and the lima bean cycle repeat.	An adult beetle lays eggs. A mature lima bean plant makes flowers that grow into pods holding new seeds.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Panel 1: Seed in soil. Panel 2: Young radish plant with a root and leaves. Panel 3: Mature radish plant with flowers and seeds. Both cycles begin with seeds and end when mature plants make new seeds.

Accept equivalent stage descriptions that match the passage. For the open task, accept clear, ordered radish sketches with labels and a correct comparison to the lima bean cycle.