

Name: _____

Life Cycles Of Animals

Biologists are scientists who study living things. Some biologists study the life cycle of animals. A life cycle refers to the stages of an animal's life. All animals have the same four stages of life: birth, growth, reproduction, and death.

Today, you will be a biologist and learn about animals' life cycles. Then, you will design a device to track animals' life cycles in the wild.

Step 1: Read Article on Life Cycles

Read the attached article. Then, answer the questions below. If you do not know an answer, look back at the article!

1. Do the otters give birth to one or multiple babies?

2. What types of activities happen during the growth part of an otter's life?

3. What happens during the reproduction part of an otter's life?

4. In the article, the author uses binoculars and an iPad to write down information about otters' life cycle. What additional tools could the author use to study otters' life cycles?

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Step 2: Learn About Seagulls' Behavior and Life Cycle

Read about the behaviors and life cycle of a seagull below.

Seagull Behavior

- Fly over oceans
- Eat fish and other animals from the ocean
- Build nests on beaches or in cliffs
- Eat small animals on the beach like amphibians and reptiles
- Sleep on the beach or on the water
- Most seagulls migrate, which means they fly, to warmer areas during the winter

Seagull Life Cycle



Birth

Seagulls hatch out eggs in a nest.



Growth:

Seagull chicks grow very fast and eat everything from worms to fish and small reptiles.



Reproduction:

Seagulls start having their own babies at 3-4 years old. They usually have 3 at a time.



Death:

Seagulls live to be about 20 years of age.

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Step 3: Design a Tracking Device

You will design a tracking device to collect information about the behavior and life cycle of seagulls. A tracking device is a small piece of technology that can collect data. Read the requirements below for the tracking device. Then, design a tracking device and describe how it will work!

Requirements for Tracking Device:

- Fits comfortably on the seagull. It could go on its wings, its feet, or around its neck.
- Collects information on each stage of its life cycle
- Tracks two types of behavior

Draw a picture of your tracking device. Label important parts.

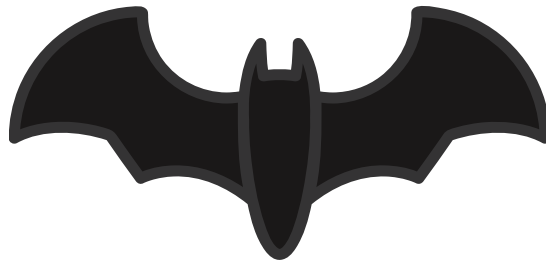


Describe how your tracking device works.



Dusti the Biologist: Life Cycles of Animals

Meet Dusti!

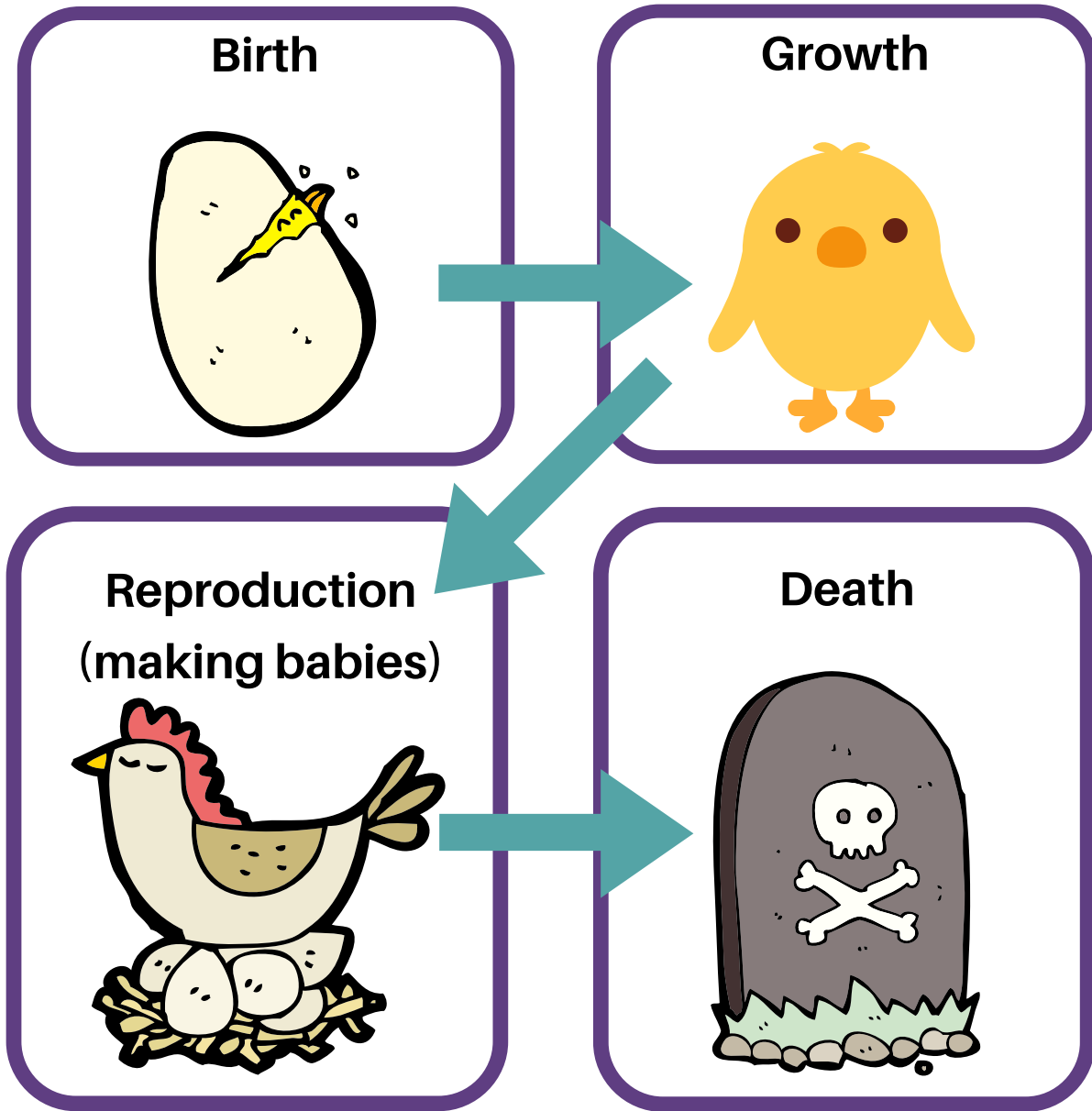


Hi! I am Dusti, and I am a biologist. A biologist is a scientist who studies living things. Some biologists study ways that living things can help people. For example, some plants can be used to make medicine. Other biologists study bats and fungi to learn more about where they live and what they eat.

Meet Dusti!

As a biologist, I study the life cycles of animals and plants that live in the Amazon river in Brazil. A life cycle is a way to think about stages of an animal's life.

Here are the stages of an animal's life:



All living things go through these life stages, no matter how different they are! The life cycle of an elephant has the same stages as a cucumber! Isn't that crazy?

What I am Working On

Right now, I am studying the life cycle of the Giant River Otter! Giant River Otters live in South America. I am traveling to South America to see otters first hand. Time to get a passport!



**Discuss with your class:
Why is it important for
biologists to observe
animals first hand instead
of reading about them in
books or online?**

What I am Working On

Cool Facts about Otters!

**They grow up to 6 feet in length!
That's as tall as some adults!**



Otter babies are born totally covered in fur and don't swim until they are 2 months old.



**Otters are very social creatures-
they like to live in groups.**



Photo credit: Sean Crane Photography

I want to learn about Giant River Otters because they are considered endangered. This means that they might become extinct. If they become extinct, there won't be any otters left!

Tools I Use

To learn about the Giant River Otter's life cycle, I watch them very closely and write down notes about what they do each day. Here are a few tools that I use to make observations:!

Binoculars: I want to be able to see otters up close so I can write down notes about what they are doing.



iPad: I write down notes on an iPad. I also use the iPad to take pictures and videos of otters.



What I Learned

I spent three weeks watching a family of river otters. Here is what I learned about their life cycle!

Birth

The group of otters is a family. There is a mother, father, and three young otters who are very active. The young otters look like they are the same size. This means they were probably born at the same time.

Growth



The family hunts together in the river. The father and mother catch a snake! The three younger otters help and together they eat the snake! This meal will help all of the otters stay healthy and grow.

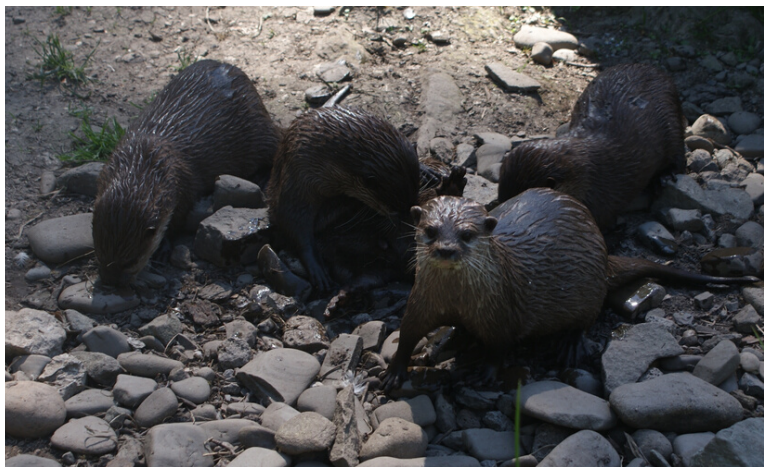


Reproduction

When the three young otters are old enough, they will have their own babies.

Death

River Otters die around the age of 13 years old in the wild. If they live in a zoo, they can live to be 21 years old!



Next Steps

I am going to watch a few more otter families over the next few months. Then, I am going to carefully look at my notes and see what I learned. I might publish a paper on my notes. This means I will write a paper and put it online for other scientists to read.

