SCIENCE | GRADE 3 | LESSON 2

Animal Life Cycles

How to use: Print first for the main practice. Then use the device to repeat activities and save progress.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Sequence the stages of a butterfly life cycle
2. Compare the life cycles of a butterfly and a frog

MINI LESSON

Animals also go through life cycles — a series of stages from birth to adulthood. Some animals change dramatically in form as they grow, a process called metamorphosis. The butterfly and the frog are two well-known examples of animals that undergo complete metamorphosis.

Butterfly Life Cycle

1. Egg — a female butterfly lays eggs on leaves.
2. Larva (caterpillar) — the egg hatches into a caterpillar that eats and grows.
3. Pupa (chrysalis) — the caterpillar forms a protective case and transforms inside.
4. Adult butterfly — emerges from the chrysalis, can fly, and lays new eggs.

Frog Life Cycle

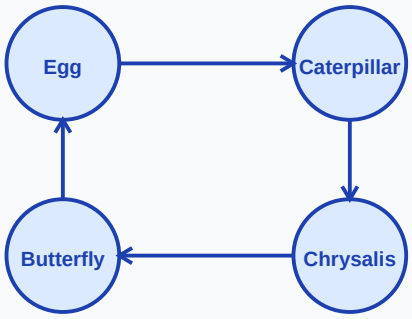
1. Frogspawn — the frog lays clusters of eggs in water.
2. Tadpole — the eggs hatch into tadpoles that breathe with gills and live in water.
3. Froglet — tadpoles grow legs and begin to develop lungs.
4. Adult frog — can breathe air and move between land and water.

VOCABULARY

Metamorphosis	A dramatic change in body form during an animal's life cycle.
Larva	The young, worm-like stage of an insect after hatching from an egg.
Pupa	The resting stage in an insect's life during which it transforms into an adult.

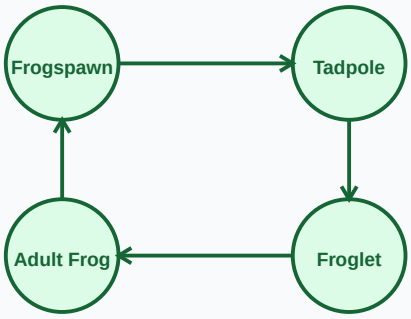
! Both butterflies and frogs go through complete metamorphosis — four distinct stages. The key difference is that frogs start life fully in water and gradually move to land.

Butterfly Life Cycle



A butterfly undergoes complete metamorphosis.

Frog Life Cycle



Frogs spend early life in water and adult life on land.

EXERCISES — PUT IN ORDER

Number the stages of the butterfly life cycle in the correct order (1 = first).

- ◯ Egg laid on a leaf
- ◯ Egg hatches into a caterpillar (larva)
- ◯ Caterpillar forms a chrysalis (pupa)
- ◯ Adult butterfly emerges

Number the circles in the correct order.

EXERCISES — MULTIPLE CHOICE

Circle the best answer.

What hatches from a butterfly egg?

- ◯ A chrysalis
- ◯ A caterpillar (larva)
- ◯ A pupa

What is the stage called when a caterpillar is transforming inside a case?

- ◯ Chrysalis (pupa)
- ◯ Froglet
- ◯ Larva

In the frog life cycle, what comes after the tadpole stage?

- ◯ Frogspawn
- ◯ Adult frog
- ◯ Froglet

What is metamorphosis?

- ◯ A dramatic change in body form during a life cycle
- ◯ A type of food chain
- ◯ The process of a plant growing

Where does a frog lay its eggs?

- ◯ In water
- ◯ On tree branches
- ◯ Underground

How many stages does the butterfly life cycle have?

- ◯ Three
- ◯ Five
- ◯ Four

What is the main difference between the butterfly and frog life cycles?

- ◯ Butterflies have more stages than frogs
- ◯ Frogs start life in water while butterflies do not
- ◯ Frogs have a chrysalis stage

What do tadpoles use to breathe?

- ◯ Lungs
- ◯ Gills
- ◯ Skin only

Which life cycle stage involves a protective outer case?

- ◯ Egg
- ◯ Chrysalis (pupa)
- ◯ Larva

Which animal goes through both an aquatic and a land stage?

- ◯ Butterfly
- ◯ Caterpillar
- ◯ Frog

ASSESSMENT

PARENT / TEACHER CHECKLIST

- ☐ Orders all four stages of the butterfly life cycle correctly.
- ☐ Orders all four stages of the frog life cycle correctly.
- ☐ Explains what metamorphosis means in their own words.
- ☐ Identifies at least one difference between the butterfly and frog life cycles.