



Lifecycles — Page 1

All living things grow and change, including you! The journey from birth to death is called a **lifecycle**.

Humans grow from babies to children, to adolescents, and finally to adults. Then they **reproduce** (make babies) and the lifecycle starts again!

But lifecycles for other animals can look very different because, unlike humans, their young do not look like their parents. They must go through huge changes as they grow into adults. This is called **metamorphosis**.

Let's look at a frog's lifecycle as it goes through metamorphosis.

Frogs are amphibians, and you can find them in ponds and other wetlands. They must go through a few different stages before becoming adult frogs...

Adult frogs lay frogspawn (eggs) that float on water. They will soon hatch into tadpoles.



Tadpoles look like fish and they can breathe underwater using gills.



The froglets lose their tail and grow bigger into adult frogs.



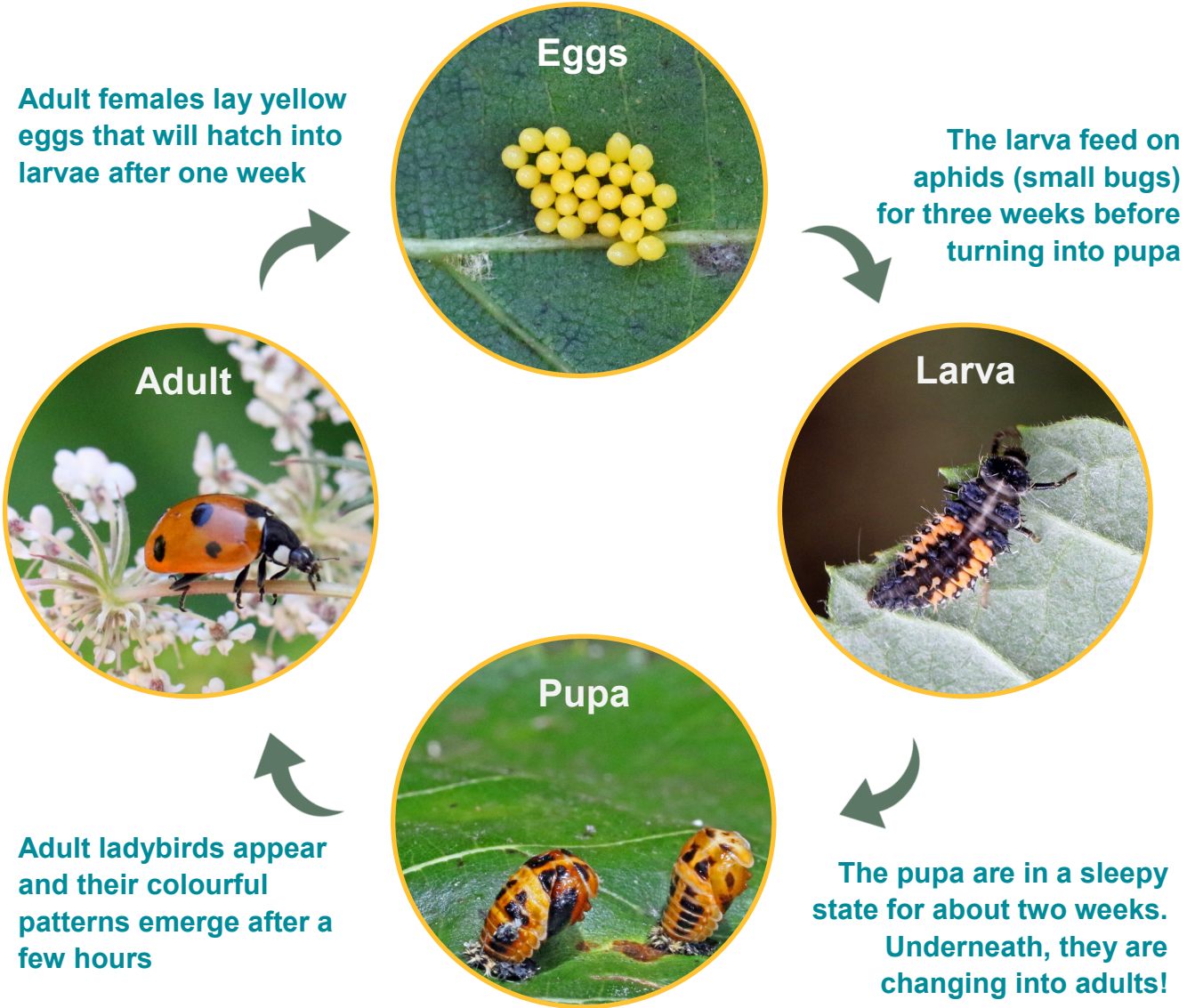
Tadpoles turn into froglets as they grow legs and develop lungs so they can breathe on land.



Lifecycles — Page 2

Most **insects** go through **metamorphosis** because they have *four* life stages. These stages are: **egg, larva, pupa and adult**.

Let's look at a **ladybird's** lifecycle...



Lifecycle questions:

1. What does **metamorphosis** mean?

.....

.....

2. Circle the following words that are part of an animal's lifecycle:

Sleeping Reproduction Feeding Death



Lifecycles — Activity

Now it's time for you to put together the lifecycle of a **coot**. Coots are familiar **wetland birds** that you may see on ponds, canals, lakes and rivers. They eat snails, insects, plants and berries!

Cut and stick the photos on the next page into the lifecycle stages below. Or draw and colour in your own versions by copying the photos.

Adult coots are all black with a white beak and face.

They are territorial and can be very aggressive towards others.

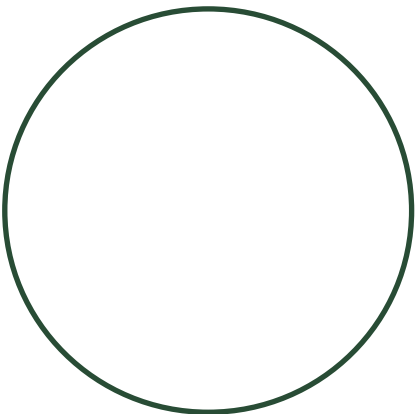
Egg

Coot eggs are pale white with dark brown spots.

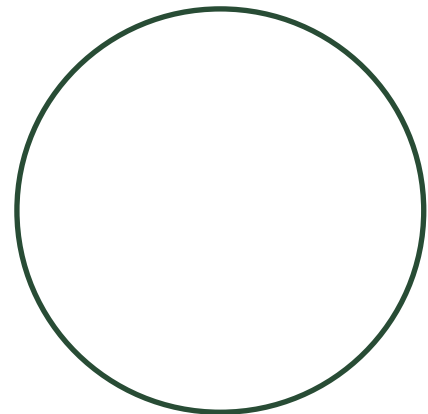
Both mum and dad will take turns to sit on, or 'incubate', the eggs.



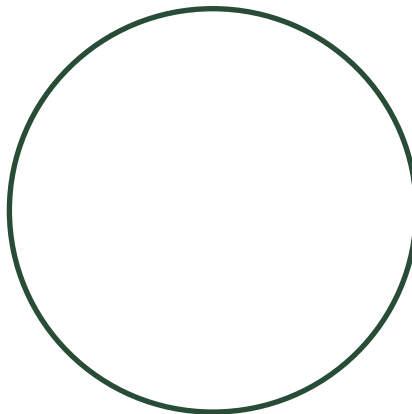
Adult coot



Chick



Juvenile



Juvenile coots quickly lose the red head hair and become grey, with a white chest and neck.

They are becoming independent and can now hunt for their own food.

Coot chicks have red and yellow heads and scrawny black hair.

They must rely on their parents to bring them lots of food everyday.





Lifecycles — Activity

Option 1: Cut out the four images and stick them onto the correct lifecycle on the activity page.

Option 2: Draw and colour in your own pictures on the activity page by copying the photos below! Remember to use the correct colours as shown in the photographs.

