

# TEACHER NOTES

## Science: Biology

### Living Things and Their Habitats: Life Cycles

#### Contextual Summary

This resource is for students in upper key stage 2 and relates to the 'Biology' part of the Science National Curriculum, focusing on life cycles.

The pre-visit task reinforces students understanding of life cycles.

The on-site task relates the animals students will observe at Tapnell Farm Park to the concept of different stages within a variety of life cycles. They are then encouraged to describe the differences between the life cycles for mammals and birds.

The post-visit task encourages students to research various gestation periods for different animals.

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Task implementation

Students carrying out the pre-visit task will produce their own resources

They use the worksheets to arrange a life cycle on a paper plate. A section is cut from a second paper plate which is then fixed on top. This allows the students to move the upper plate and display the various stages of a life cycle.

The on-site task focuses on the observation of different animals and to relate the animals to the different stages of their life cycles. The task involves students observing an animal and completing the different stages of the life cycle on the worksheet. Students will observe a variety of different animals and complete the life cycle worksheets for a range of different animals. They will then focus on the life cycle of a mammal and a bird and describe the differences between the two life cycles.

The post-visit task is a research exercise. Students complete the table by filling in the different gestation periods for various animals.

The pre-visit aspects of this task enables students to work together in small groups or individually to produce life cycles. The on-site resource is designed to be completed individually during the trip to Tapnell Farm Park. The post-visit task can be completed individually or organised as a group activity.

#### Ability Levels

There is one mixed ability resource provided.

#### Relationship to Curriculum

These skills are required to be taught and practised as per the National Curriculum / Curriculum for Excellence, for key stage 2 science, specifically: Biology: Living Things & Their Habitats - Life Cycles of animals and plants.



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#### SUBJECT

Science - Biology

#### UNIT

Life Cycles

#### OPPORTUNITIES FOR USE

- ✓ Pre-Visit
- ✓ On-Site Activity
- ✓ Post-Visit



Peripheral Task

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Task implementation

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P6-P7

#### CURRICULUM / SYLLABUS

- ✓ National Curriculum 2014
- ✓ Curriculum for Excellence

Applies to Resource numbered:

152091

#### Key skills practised in this unit:

- ▶ Observation of various characteristics
- ▶ Recording observations
- ▶ Communication skills
- ▶ Research skills.

## Learning Opportunities

### Pre-Visit

- ▶ It is suggested that students carry out the pre-visit tasks in the resource linked to this document: *Learn About Life Cycles!*

Resource ID: **152091** (KS2U mixed ability)

### During the Visit

- ▶ Students complete the on-site activities in the resource linked to this document: *Learn About Life Cycles!*

Resource ID: **152091** (KS2U mixed ability)

### Post-Visit

- ▶ Students complete the follow-up activity in the resource linked to this document: *Learn About Life Cycles!*

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- ▶ Students will develop their observational skills.
- ▶ By completing their worksheets students are practising recording their observations.
- ▶ Students will develop their communication skills during the description task.
- ▶ The post-visit tasks will develop their research skills.

## Learning Outcomes

- ✓ Students will be able to create life cycles in the correct chronological order.
- ✓ Students will record their observations.
- ✓ Students will be able to describe the differences between the life cycles of a mammal and a bird.
- ✓ Students will be able to identify different stages of a life cycle.
- ✓ Students will demonstrate an understanding that all living things have their own life cycle and have different gestation periods.

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