

Life Cycles

God is our Redeemer, Life and Peace

Spiritual Awareness: Jesus, the resurrection and the life

Life is something that only God can give. God has given each of us one life, beginning at birth and ending with the death of our physical bodies. We have only one life, to prepare for eternity. God makes available His salvation to every person.

Life cycles in the animal world can be representative of the changes that take place in human lives when people accept God's redemption.

Our response to 'God is our Redeemer'

Because God is my redeemer I will...
Ask Jesus to forgive me for my sin
Invite Him to live in my life
Make Jesus Lord of my life
Live with Him forever
Thank Him for what He did on the cross
Thank Him that I am His child
Tell others that they can have eternal life

Supporting devotional resource

Themes for Christian Studies 1, (Life): God is the giver of life
Themes for Christian Studies 2, (Life): God gives new life

Biblical references

Bible stories and passages

Matthew 9:9-12; Mark 2:13-17; Luke 5:27-32; John 1:43-50 - Jesus called the disciples to a new life.

John 11:25 – Lazarus received new life. Jesus, the resurrection and the life.

Jesus rose again and through Him we can receive new life.

John 3 -1-13 - Nicodemus – You must be born again.

Genesis 2:7 - God gave life to man.

Memory verses

Psalm 150:6 - - Praise the Lord, all living creatures.

Acts 17:28 - In Him we live and move and exist.

John 5:24 – Whoever hears my words and believes in Him who sent me has eternal life.

Romans 6:23 – For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Key Questions

About frogs and butterflies and moths

Where did the egg come from?

What changes did the caterpillar/tadpole go through on its way to becoming a butterfly/frog?

What do you think a female butterfly does before she dies?

How long do the changes take?
Where do the babies live?
Where do the adults live?
Do the babies eat different things than the adults?
What changes must take place for an animal to be able to move to a different part of the habitat and begin eating different things?
How are the life cycles of frogs and butterflies different? How are they similar to one another?
How is the growth and development of frogs and insects different from animals like dogs, cats, and pigs?

About us

How do people change as they grow?
What do babies need to survive?

About God

Why did God create us?
What is Heaven?
Who goes to Heaven?
What is eternal life?

Outcomes

Students will

Knowledge

- Recognize that people and animals grow and change, passing through different stages.
- Understand that all animals have a life cycle that includes being born, developing into an adult, reproducing, and eventually dying.
- Understand that the details of life cycles vary from one organism to another.
- Understand that frogs and insects develop new body parts (like lungs and wings) and change body shape as they mature. This process is called metamorphosis.

Skills

- Observe the changes that occur during the growth and development of insects and frogs.
- Pose questions about how we grow and change.
- Predict what might happen based on prior knowledge.
- Suggest ways to plan and conduct investigations to find answers to questions.
- Make and record observations, using formal measurements and digital technologies as appropriate.
- Compare results with predictions, suggesting possible reasons for findings.
- Represent and communicate ideas and findings in a variety of ways such as diagrams, physical representations and simple reports.

Values

- Appreciate that people of different ages have different needs and need to be considered appropriately.
- Work responsibly with others.
- Act responsibly during outdoor investigations.
- Treat living things in a responsible way, caring for their needs.
- Recognize that humans have the opportunity of accepting eternal life.

Activities

- Discuss pictures of people at different stages of life.
- Discuss stages of dependence and independence.
- Identify physical changes of class members over the past year, e.g. increase in height, weight, loss of teeth
- Identify changes in abilities over the past 5 years, e.g. when I was one I was just learning to walk.
- Observe animal life cycles. Keep a diary to record changes.
- Collect tadpoles or caterpillars, set up homes for them and observe life cycles.
- Sequence picture cards showing stages in life-cycles of frogs or butterflies.
- Draw life cycles of frogs or butterflies.
- Make a chart showing food and habitat.
- List animals that hibernate. Discuss their life cycles.

Assessment

1. Draw a diagram to show the life cycle of an animal. Use arrows to link drawings. Add labels and captions.
2. What have I learned from the study of life cycles...
 - about God?
 - about doing what God wants me to do?
 - about the Bible?

Link with Australian Curriculum

Science year 3: Biological Sciences - Living things can be grouped on the basis of observable features and can be distinguished from non-living things

Learning Connections

English:

Make a book about yourself and significant things you did from when you were born up until now.

Read the book, *“The very Hungry Caterpillar”* and write your own book about the life cycle of a frog.

Art: Make colourful butterflies using tissue paper for wings.

Related Building Blocks Units: Mini-beasts; Growth and change