

Objective

By the end of this lesson, the student will understand the basic life cycles of mammals, birds, and plants. They will be able to identify the stages of each life cycle and explain how these cycles are important for the survival of each species.

Materials and Prep

- Paper and pencil for drawing and notes
- Access to a timer (or a way to keep time)
- Creative imagination for storytelling

Before the lesson, review the basic definitions of life cycles and the stages involved for mammals, birds, and plants. Think about examples of each to share during the activities.

Activities

• Life Cycle Relay:

Set a timer for 5 minutes. The student will draw three life cycles (one for a mammal, one for a bird, and one for a plant) on separate pieces of paper. Once the timer goes off, they will race to explain each life cycle to you in under a minute. This will help them practice summarizing what they learned!

• Storytime Creation:

The student will create a short story featuring a character from each life cycle (like a baby bird, a puppy, and a seed). They will write or narrate the story, explaining how each character grows and changes through its life cycle. This will encourage creativity while reinforcing their understanding of life cycles.

• Life Cycle Charades:

Play a game of charades where the student acts out different stages of life cycles without speaking. For example, they can pretend to be a seed sprouting or a chick hatching. You can guess what they are acting out, making it a fun and interactive way to learn!

Talking Points

- "Can you tell me what a life cycle is?"
- "What are the stages of a mammal's life cycle? Can you name one mammal?"
- "Birds go through life cycles too! What do you think happens when a bird hatches?"
- "Plants have life cycles as well. What do you think the first stage of a plant's life cycle is?"
- "Why do you think life cycles are important for animals and plants?"
- "How do you think animals and plants know when it's time to move to the next stage of their life cycle?"
- "Can you think of any other animals or plants that have interesting life cycles?"
- "What did you enjoy most about learning these life cycles today?"
- "How can understanding life cycles help us take care of our environment?"
- "What is one new thing you learned today that surprised you?"