

Awesome Animals

What do all animals have in common?

Animals, and all living things, do certain things to stay alive. These are called life processes.

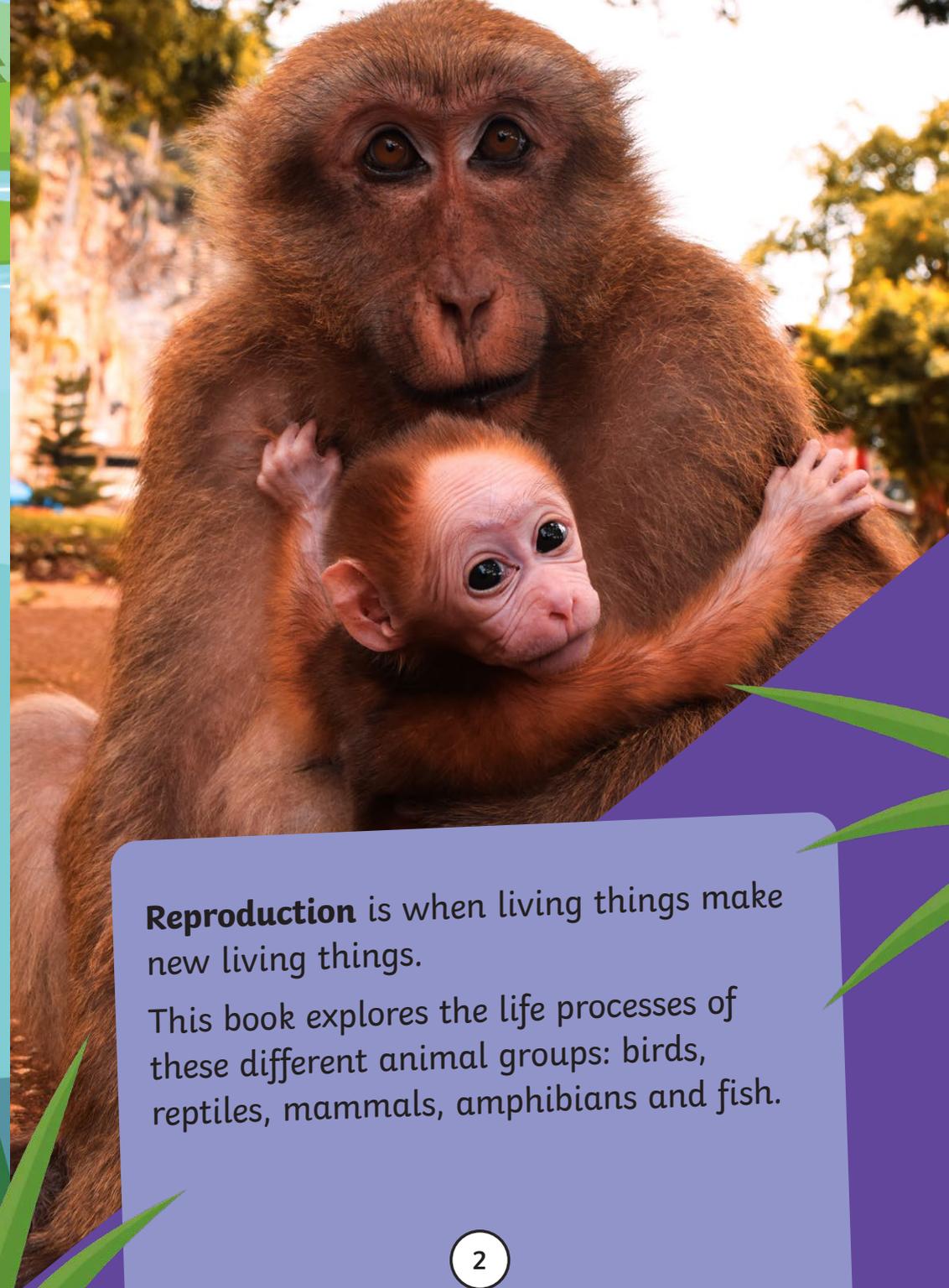
Some examples of life processes include:

having
offspring

taking in
nutrients

growing

1



Reproduction is when living things make new living things.

This book explores the life processes of these different animal groups: birds, reptiles, mammals, amphibians and fish.

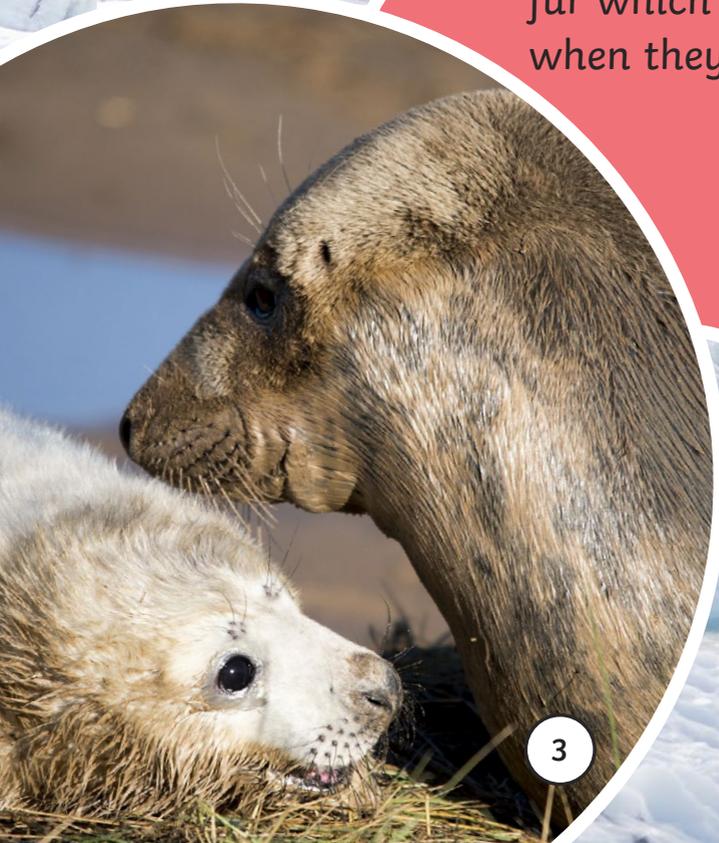
2

Beautiful Babies

Do all animal offspring look like their adult when they are born?

Some **offspring** look like their parent when they are born, but some look very different.

Grey seals have a brown-grey coat of fur which is white when they are born.



3

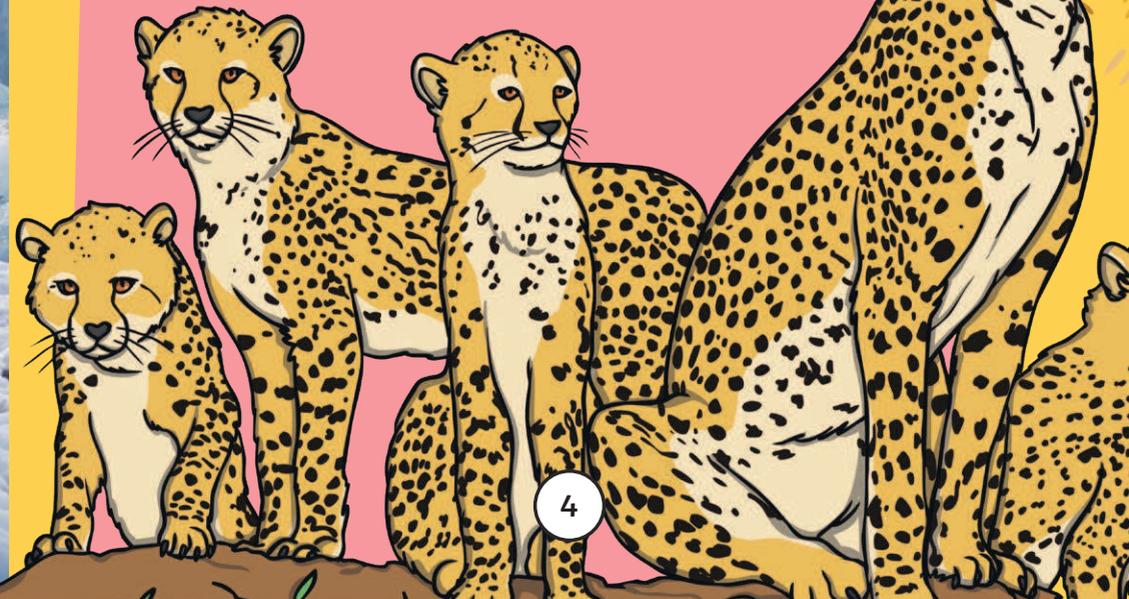
When tapirs are born, they have unusual markings which they lose as they grow up.



Live Young

Some animals give birth to **live young**. These babies are much smaller than the parent.

Although they may be a different colour, or have a different **body covering** when they are first born, often **live young** do look like the **adult** animal.



4

Some animals lay eggs which hatch into **offspring**. Some of these babies look like their **adult** when they hatch but some look very different.



Tiny bog turtle **young** are only about 2.5cm long when they hatch from their eggs. **Adults** can grow to about 10cm long.



Swans are white but baby swans (cygnets) are a greyish colour when they are born.

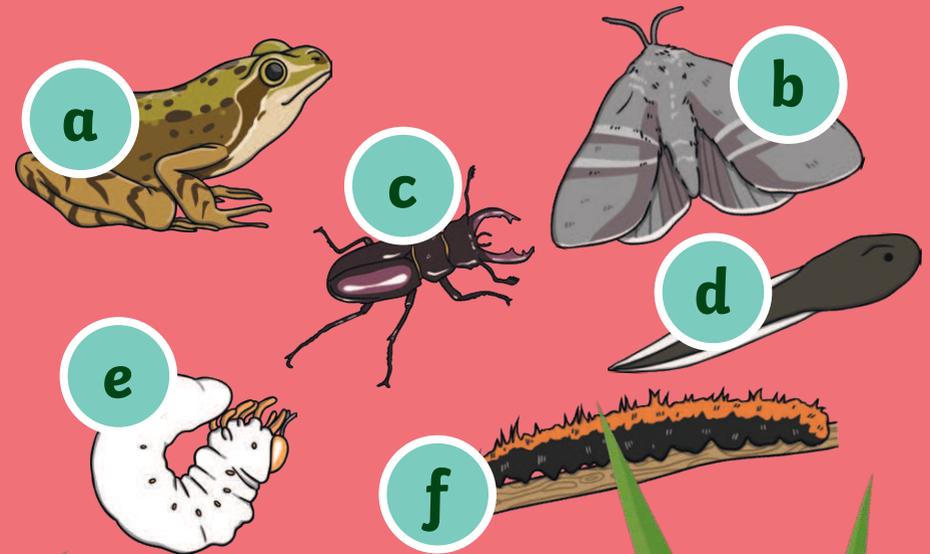
5

Offspring That Do Not Look Like Their Adult

Some animals look totally different to their **adult** when they are born and must go through many big changes to finally look like the grown-up animal. This process is called **metamorphosis**.

Find out more about this in the section called 'Life Cycles'.

Here are the **adults** and **offspring** of a frog, a moth and a stag beetle. Can you match the **adults** to the correct **offspring**? The answers are found at the side of this page.



6

Excellent Egg Facts

The African driver ant can lay between three and four million eggs every 25 days! This little insect is thought to lay more eggs than any other animal in the world.



Research It!

Use the internet and non-fiction books to discover more excellent egg facts for yourself. Can you find out which animal lays the world's smallest egg or how many eggs a rattlesnake lays? What else can you discover?



Did you
know

?

The world's biggest egg was laid by an ostrich in Sweden in 2008. It weighed 2.5kg. This is the same weight as about 50 chicken eggs!

Mammals

What are mammal offspring like?

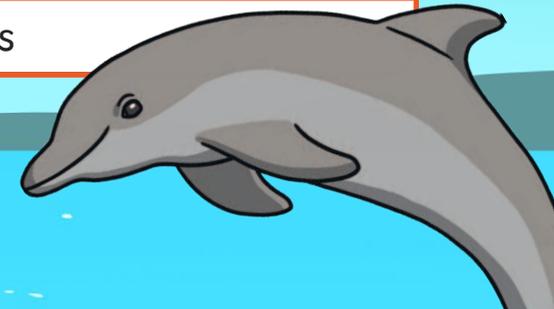
Baby mammals grow inside their mother's body until they are ready to be born. Mammals give birth to **live young** that often look just like them, only smaller. Sometimes, their **body covering** might be different in colour, pattern or feel.

Echidnas and platypus are mammals but they lay eggs rather than giving birth to **live young**.



Different animals take different lengths of time to grow inside their mother before they are born. What do you notice about the mammal examples below?

Hamster	16 days (but varies with type)
Sheep	5 months
Human	9 months
Dolphin	12 months (1 year)
Elephant	22 months



Did you know

?

Although dolphins and whales seem like fish, they are actually mammals. They come to the surface to breathe air through a **blowhole** and give birth to **live young**.

Reptiles

What are reptile offspring like?

Most reptiles lay eggs but some give birth to **live young**. Reptiles lay their eggs on dry land. The female builds a nest to lay her eggs in. Some reptiles stay with the eggs until they are ready to hatch but some leave them.

When the eggs hatch, the **hatchlings** often look like their parent but they are much smaller.



a crocodile **hatchling**

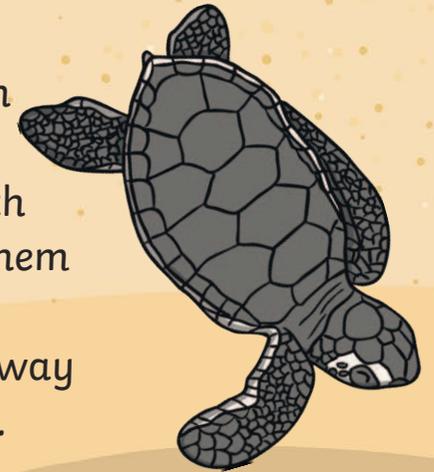
Did you know



Rattlesnakes don't lay eggs. Instead, they give birth to **live young**. The **offspring** are about 25cm long but **adults** can grow to over two metres long!



Sea turtles lay their eggs on beaches. After laying their eggs and covering them with sand, female turtles leave them and return to the sea. The **hatchlings** must find their way to the sea when they hatch.



Birds

What are bird offspring like?

Female birds lay eggs that hatch into **hatchlings**. Most male and female birds take it in turns to **incubate** the egg.

The **hatchlings** usually look similar to their **adult**, only smaller. Some baby birds can be a different colour to their adult and their **body covering** may change as they grow up.



In the harsh Antarctic environment, male emperor penguins look after the eggs and keep them warm. They put the egg on their feet and cover it with a 'brood pouch', a special layer of feathery skin.



Did you know



Baby flamingos are born with grey or white feathers. It can take two years for them to turn a proud pink!



Do you recognise these baby birds?
Which adult do they grow into?



owl



eagle



duck

Fish

What are fish offspring like?

Most fish lay eggs. Female fish lay eggs (called roe) in water. They can lay anywhere from one hundred to one thousand eggs. Not all of these eggs will grow into babies.

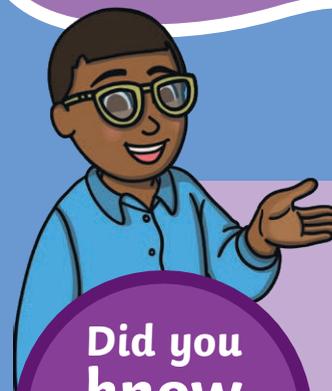
When the **offspring** hatch out of the eggs, they are known as **larvae**. Fish **larvae** do not look like their **adult**.

Look at how different the cod **larvae** and **adult** cod are!



fish roe

Why do you think jellyfish and crayfish have the word 'fish' in their name?

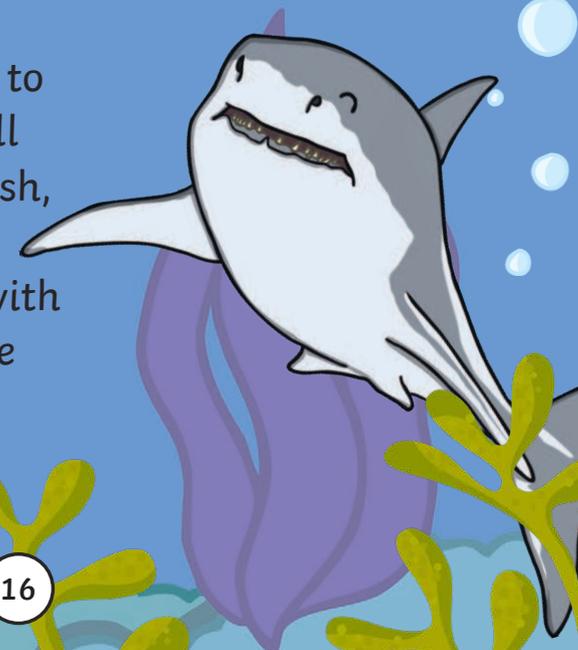


Did you know

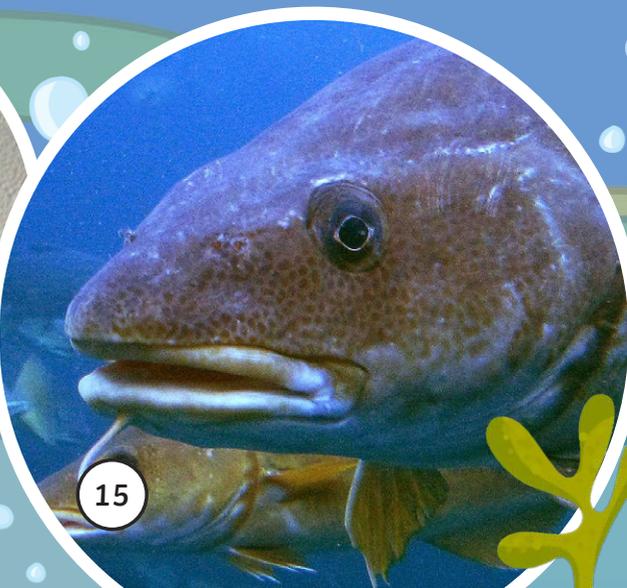
?

Although jellyfish and crayfish have the word 'fish' in their name, they aren't actually fish. This is because they do not have a backbone like all fish have.

Some sharks give birth to **live young**. However, all sharks are classed as fish, not mammals. This is because they breathe with gills, not **blowholes** like whales and dolphins.



15



16

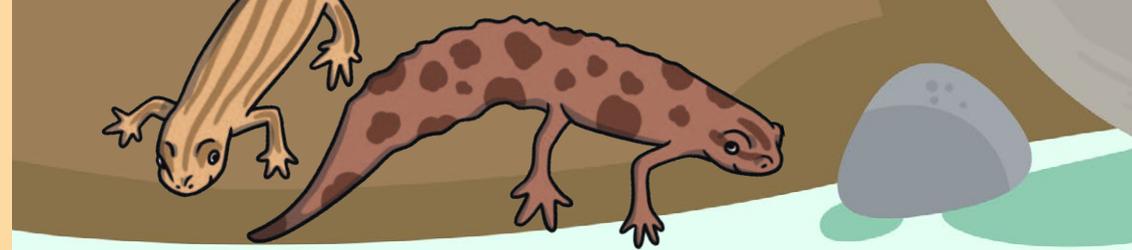
Amphibians

What are amphibian offspring like?

Most amphibians lay their eggs in water. These eggs are also known as spawn. Most amphibians produce **larvae** which hatch from these eggs and do not look like their **adult**. The **larvae** then go through a series of big changes until they do. This is called **metamorphosis**.



Have you ever seen tadpoles (frog **larvae**)?
How do they change to become an **adult** frog?



Did you
know



Some amphibians have their **offspring** on dry land. They either lay their eggs on land which hatch into **young**, or give birth to **live young**.

Newts can lay up to 300 eggs which hatch after two to three weeks.



Strawberry poison dart frogs lay their eggs on land.

Fire salamanders give birth to **live young**.

