

Competition, Reproduction, and Life Cycles



MSELL is a collaborative grant with Sam Houston State University and Texas A&M University funded by the National Science Foundation.

Dear Family,

Our class is studying Life Science. Your child is learning how organisms compete for resources such as food, water, sunlight, and space. We are also learning about the life cycles and reproduction of plants and animals, as well as the differences between inherited traits and learned characteristics.

Your child is also learning many new vocabulary words. Help your child to make these words a part of his or her own vocabulary by using them when you talk together about Life Science.

WORD

DEFINITION

resource	a natural resource that meets a basic need, such as oxygen, food, water, sunlight, and space to live
competition	the struggle of organisms against each other to get the same resource
reproduce	to make more organisms of the same kind
offspring	new organisms that come from parent organisms
life cycle	a pattern that a living thing passes through during its growth and development
metamorphosis	a change in form that some organisms go through during their life cycle
inherited traits	a characteristic that is passed from parents to their offspring
learned characteristics	a behavior that an animal develops by observing other animals or by being taught

The following pages include activities that you and your child can do together. By participating in your child's education, you will help to bring the learning home.

Check out these online games to have more fun with Science:

http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/content/animals/kidscorner/endangered_animals/endangered_game.htm

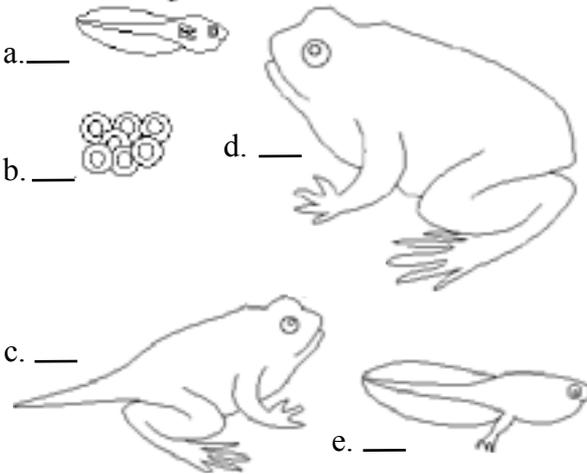
http://teams.lacoe.edu/documentation/classrooms/judi/life/activities/cycles/life_cycles.html

Fun Fact

The cormorant is a bird that has developed a behavioral adaptation to make sure the kids get out of the house. When the mother thinks the young birds are ready to leave home, she completely destroys the nest!

Life Cycle Activity

Look at the pictures and determine the order of the frogs life cycle. Place the numbers 1 to 5 on the line beside the picture to reflect this order.



Answers: a. 2, b. 1, c. 4, d. 5, e. 3

Take Home Booklet

Organisms II

Helper's Signature _____

Helpers, please rate the activities in this booklet:

1-poor 2-needs improvement 3-good 4-excellent
(Please circle one number on each line.)

My child's performance on these activities was: 1 2 3 4
The quality of these activities was: 1 2 3 4

Once you have completed all the activities and experiments, complete this section, cut along the dotted line, and return it to your teacher.

Student's Name: _____ on _____
I worked with my _____ (ex: mom, aunt, brother, guardian) on these projects.

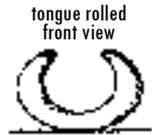
Family Science Activity

Inherited Traits

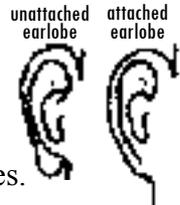
Children love to learn about themselves and find traits they have in common with other family members. Here is a fun way your child can perform their own experiment to compare some unusual traits.

- a. The student selects one family member with whom to compare traits. As each trait is observed, the student records the findings in the chart below placing a check mark (✓) in the appropriate box.

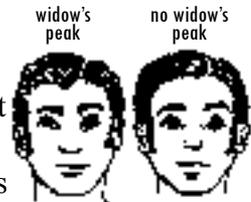
- b. First, the student and family member each try to curl their tongue by rolling the sides up. This picture shows the front view of a tongue that is curled.



- c. Next, the student looks at his/her own ears in a mirror and then directly at the family members ears to determine if they have unattached or attached earlobes. This picture shows the difference between attached and unattached earlobes.



- d. And last, the student holds the top of his/her hair back so he can see the hairline on his forehead and looks in the mirror. The student then observes the family member doing the same to determine if either one has a widow's peak. This picture shows the difference between a hairline with a widow's peak and one without a widow's peak.



Characteristic	Child	Family Member
Can curl tongue		
Cannot curl tongue		
Unattached earlobe		
Attached earlobe		
Widow's peak		
No widow's peak		