

# Animals: Lifecycles and reproduction

**eggs**- these are formed once the gametes have been fertilised. After fertilisation females of the following living things will lay eggs: fish, reptiles, birds, amphibians

**embryo**- an embryo is formed when a sperm and an egg join. An embryo develops into an unborn baby in the uterus during pregnancy.

**gametes**-Gametes are the male and female sex cells:

**fertilisation** – During sexual reproduction a sperm from the male joins with an egg from the female. This is called **fertilisation**.

**larvae**-the active immature form of an insect, especially one that differs greatly from the adult and forms the stage between egg and pupa, e.g. a caterpillar or grub. Compare with [nymph](#). An immature form of other animals that undergo some metamorphosis, e.g. a tadpole.

## Lifecycle of a frog



## Lifecycle of a butterfly



**ova** – these are female gametes- singular **ovum**

**sperm** – these are male gametes

**lifecycle**-A lifecycle is the different stages of life for all living things, including humans.

## stages in a lifecycle-

There are normally four major events in the lifecycle of animals:

**birth - growth - reproduction – death**

**Metamorphosis**- Most amphibians go through **metamorphosis** during their lifetime. Metamorphosis is a **process** some animals go through to become adults. It is a series of physical changes. Metamorphosis is especially common in insects. Genes and chemicals called hormones control the process. Many insects go through four stages of metamorphosis: egg, larva, pupa, and adult. An insect hatches from an egg into a wormlike larva.

**Reproduction** means to have babies or offspring. To reproduce, animals need a male and a female. Together they can create offspring when they mate. This is called **sexual reproduction**.

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