

Life Cycles Tour Instructions

Set Up:

Leader has the activity information, pictures that correspond with the stops & the plush animal (in a bag for Stop 7)

Students need to have yes/no cards.

Activity:

Follow the directions on the activity sheets at each stop. For the Y/N game, students will hold up their yes/no cards to reveal their answer. Some “stops” will be indoors - either in the Discovery Centre (labelled DC) or the Small Mammal House. (labelled SMH). If your stop has multiple animals, go to a couple of them or whichever one you wish.

Note: lemurs may be outside depending on season

Stop 1: Ball Python OR Western Hognose Snake (indoors DC)- Reptile Eggs

Teacher Prompt: Show snake eggs and ask if students think the shells would be hard or soft & squishy

Students: Shout “soft & squishy!”

Y/N game: Ask “Raise your Yes/No cards - do baby snakes need their moms to feed them?”

Students: No! (they are ready to hunt when they hatch!)

Show: egg picture with hatchlings (baby snakes)

Stop 2: Cichlids (indoors DC)-Fish families

Teacher Prompt: “Baby fish are called...?” This is usually difficult, give them a hint like: what would you answer If I say, “I like to eat French”

Students: Shout “fries!” (a baby fish is called a fry)

Y/N game: ask: “Do you think moms carry their babies on their tail to help protect them from danger? Hold up your Yes/No card.” (no, they hold them in their mouth). Show picture of mom Cichlid with fry in mouth.

Ask: How are fish similar to tadpoles? (they both have gills, or they could answer they both are slimy)

Stop 3: Poison Dart frogs/Fire-bellied toads/Axolotl (indoors DC) – Metamorphosis

Teacher Prompt: Show tadpole picture. Have the students point to the animals in the Discovery Centre whose babies are called tadpoles

Students: Point to frogs & toads (axolotls are usually just called larva)

Y/N game: Ask “Yes or No – do tadpoles look just like their parents?”

Students: No! (adult is usually an air-breathing animal with lungs)

Ask: which of the three animals that you found never loses their gills? (axolotl)

Stop 4: Elk / Caribou / Fallow Deer / Pronghorn/Bison – Mammal Babies

Teacher Prompt: “deer, caribou, Fallow Deer, pronghorn and bison are mammals like us. Their babies drink...?”

Students: Shout “milk!”

Y/N game: Ask “Yes or No – do hoofed animals usually have lots of babies at once?”

Students: No! (usually just one)

Movement Break: Fawns/calves are usually wobbly when born and have to learn to stand. Have students balance on one foot and see how long before they put the other foot down to mimic what it’s like when a baby hoofed animal is first born (there are some exceptions, if you want to head to the Mountain Goat, ask students why they think that a mountain goat kid is fairly steady on its feet right from birth? (they have to be able to be stable/sturdy on narrow mountain ledges)

Stop 5: Pygmy goat/Babydoll Sheep/Markhor/Bighorn Sheep-Herds

Teacher Prompt: “These animals live in herds, which means...?”

Students: Shout “They live together!”

Y/N game: Show baby goat/lamb picture and ask: “Do moms feed their babies until they’re ready for plants? Hold up your Yes/No card.” (Yes).

Show & Ask: Show picture of deer fawn in tall grass. Why do you think the deer mom hides their babies in tall grass? (hides the scentless babies from predators, protects from heat)

Stop 6: Bald Eagle / Snowy Owl – Egg to Chick

Teacher Prompt: “Owls don’t have live babies like us—they hatch from...?”

Students: Shout “EGGS!”

Ask: what are baby eagles and owls called

Students: shout answers (answer: eaglets and owlets)

Show: eaglet/owlet picture

Y/N game: Do owls take care of their chicks until they can fly? Students hold up “Yes/No” card (Yes).

Ask: what happens if mommy doesn’t sit on the eggs (too cold to hatch)

Stop 7: Canada Lynx / Snow Leopard / Bobcat / Arctic Wolf / Dingo – Predator Families

Teacher Prompt: Show a picture of kittens and wolf pups and ask if students think these babies learn to hunt right away (after they are weaned-explain), or do their parents bring food first?

Students: Shout “Parents bring food!”

Y/N game: Ask “Raise your Yes/No cards - let me know if I am right - lynx baby is a pup (no)/snow leopard is a kitten (yes)/bobcat is a kitten(yes)/Wolf is a pup (yes)/dingo is a kitten (no)

Ask: Which of the above animals are pack animals? (wolves/dingoes)

Ask: Why might a pack be more helpful in raising young? (all members of the pack help raising the young & looking out for them)

Stop 8: Ring-Tailed Lemur / Goeldi's Monkey / Meerkat (indoors SMH) – Family Care

Teacher Prompt: Show a picture of the lemur baby clinging to mom's back and ask “why do the lemurs and the Goeldi's need to hold on tight to mom?”

Students: Answer “if they fall, they will most likely not survive!”

Movement break: Pick a student. Hand them the plush animal and have them place on their back and move around. See what happens if they move faster. Let all kids try. Now do up the velcro “arms” and see how fast they can move. What's the difference? Tell them that it is important for lemurs and Goeldi's monkeys to hang on tightly as mom & even dads jump around fast with a baby on their backs.

Y/N game: do you think these animals' families help teach them what to eat & how to survive? (yes)

Wrap-Up Reflection (5 minutes)

“Which animal's baby looked most different from the adult?” (Frog/tadpole)

“What were some specific ways mom (or dad) helped out their babies?”
(place them in tall grass, carry them on their back, feed them, incubate eggs to keep them warm, share duties within a pack, hold babies in their mouth for protection, etc).

“What do all babies need to grow?” (Food, protection, family).



AFTER COMPLETING YOUR ACTIVITY YOU MAY FREELY EXPLORE THE ZOO, OR IF YOU HAVE A BOOKED PROGRAM, PLEASE RETURN TO THE RED BENCHES OUTSIDE THE ZOO ENTRANCE FOR YOUR PROGRAM TIME.

*****PLEASE RETURN ALL BORROWED ACTIVITY EQUIPMENT*****

Life Cycles Map

Possible Starting Locations

C = Zoo Entrance

D = Affinity Learning Centre/Discovery Centre





NO



YES



NO



YES



NO



YES



Snake eggs-Stop 1



Snake hatchling-Stop 1



Baby eagles-Stop 2



Baby owl-Stop 2



Goat kids-Stop 4



Lamb-Stop 4



Deer fawn in grass-Stop 4



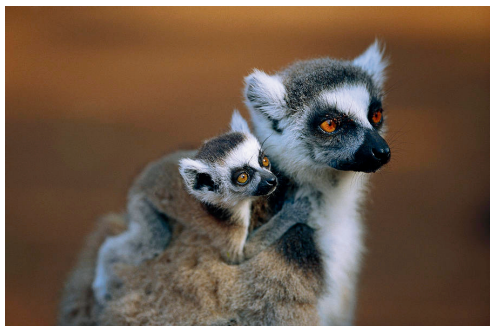
Tadpole-Stop 5



Wolf pups-Stop 6



Lynx kitten-Stop 6



**Lemur baby on mom
Stop 7**



Cichlid with fry-Stop 8