

# ANIMALS INCLUDING HUMANS



## HUMAN LIFE CYCLE

The human life cycle consists of six stages: foetus, baby, childhood, adolescence, adulthood, and old age. It begins with the baby developing in the womb as a foetus, growing and changing over nine months. After birth, humans grow through childhood, learning basic skills like walking and talking. In adolescence, physical changes occur during puberty, and individuals move towards adulthood. Adulthood is when people are fully developed, often starting families and careers. In old age, people experience changes in their bodies and may need extra care. Throughout the human life cycle, each stage brings new experiences and challenges.

## REPRODUCTION AND GESTATION IN HUMANS

Humans are born after a period of gestation. Gestation is the time a baby spends developing inside the mother's womb. In humans, the gestation period is approximately nine months. During this time, the baby grows and develops all the necessary organs and systems to survive outside the womb. Once the baby is fully developed, it is born and begins its life outside the womb.

## GESTATION IN ANIMALS

Different animals have different gestation periods. Some animals have long gestation periods, while others have short ones. For example, cows have a gestation period of approximately nine months, similar to humans. On the other hand, elephants have a much longer gestation period of around 22 months. Other animals, such as rabbits, have much shorter gestation periods, sometimes as short as a month.

## LIFE EXPECTANCY IN HUMANS AND ANIMALS

Life expectancy is the average number of years a person or animal is expected to live. In humans, the average life expectancy is between 70 and 80 years, although this can vary depending on factors such as health and lifestyle. Some animals live much shorter lives, such as dogs, which typically live for 10 to 15 years, depending on the breed. Other animals, like elephants, can live for up to 60 to 70 years.

## HOW DO OTHER ANIMALS EXPERIENCE THESE STAGES?

Just like humans, animals experience birth, growth, and old age. However, the length of these stages can be very different. For example, while humans take many years to reach adulthood, some animals, like dogs, become adults in just 1 to 2 years. In terms of life expectancy, animals like tortoises can live for over 100 years, while many small animals, such as mice, only live for a few years.

## FIND OUT MORE...

[Changes in humans during their lifetime - BBC Bitesize](#)



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EXAMPLE QUESTIONS:

1. What is the human life cycle, and what are its main stages?
2. What is the gestation period in humans, and why is it important?
3. Which animals have gestation periods similar to or different from humans? Provide examples.
4. What is life expectancy, and how does it vary between humans and different animals?
5. How do the stages of life in humans compare to those in animals, such as dogs and tortoises?