

Metamorphosis and Variation in Life Cycles

READ ALOUD PASSAGE

Some animals go through a dramatic change in their body during their life cycle. This is called metamorphosis. Butterflies and moths go through four stages: egg, larva, pupa, and adult. The larva, which is a caterpillar, looks completely different from the adult butterfly. Inside the pupa, the body completely reorganizes itself into the adult form.

Frogs also go through metamorphosis. A frog starts as an egg, hatches into a tadpole that breathes through gills and swims like a fish, and then gradually grows legs and loses its tail as it develops into an adult frog that breathes air. Within any group of animals, every individual is a little different from the others. No two frogs, butterflies, dogs, or people look exactly alike. These differences are called variations. Offspring look similar to their parents, but they are not identical. Variation within a species means that some individuals will be better suited to their environment than others.

Variation is very important in nature. It is the reason why some animals survive better than others, which over many generations can lead to changes within a species.

Activity 1: Word Hunt

Look back at the reading. Find four nouns and write them on the lines.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Activity 2: Fix the Run-On

Each of these is really two sentences squished together. Rewrite it the right way.

1. Some animals go through a dramatic change in their body during their life cycle this is called metamorphosis.

Correction:

2. Butterflies and moths go through four stages: egg, larva, pupa, and adult the larva, which is a caterpillar, looks completely different from the adult butterfly.

Correction:

Activity 3: Grow a Sentence

This sentence is very short. Answer each question to add more information. Then put your answers together into one longer sentence.

START WITH THIS SENTENCE

Tadpoles change.

When?

Where?

How?

Why?

Write your expanded sentence:
