

Life Cycles 3rd Grade

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1. References:

- “Life Cycle Observations” lesson plan from 3rd grade curriculum guide

2. Benchmarks:

GLI #LS-1: Compare the life cycles of different animals, including birth to adulthood, reproduction, and death.

GLI #LS-2: Relate animal structures to their specific survival functions.

3. Objectives:

Identify life cycle stages and be able to arrange a collection of pictures depicting the life cycle progression of an animal.

4. Materials:

- Mealworms
- Apples
- Oatmeal (other cereal types such as Cheerios, Fruit Loops, etc.)
- Bread
- Plastic cups
- Spoons
- Steak knife (for cutting apples)
- Egg [of a chicken]
- Pictures of various lifecycles (mealworm, butterfly, chicken, frog)
- *Life Cycle* booklet from the 3rd grade curriculum guide

5. Initial Demonstration:

Introduce the concept of a cycle: motorcycle, bicycle, tricycle, life cycle, water cycle, unicycle, recycle, etc... Explain that a cycle is something that goes around and around; it starts and finishing in the same place.

Show the students the egg and ask them if they know what it is, where it comes from, and what comes from it. Explain that the egg is one stage in the life cycle of the chicken. You may show the class an inanimate object such as a stapler and ask them if a stapler has a “life cycle.” Explain to them that the stapler will always be a stapler; it will not naturally undergo a change the way a living *organism* does. You may also introduce the saying, “What came first, the chicken or the egg?” – Explain this saying and the significance both in regards to life cycles and in general.