

How are plants and animals made?

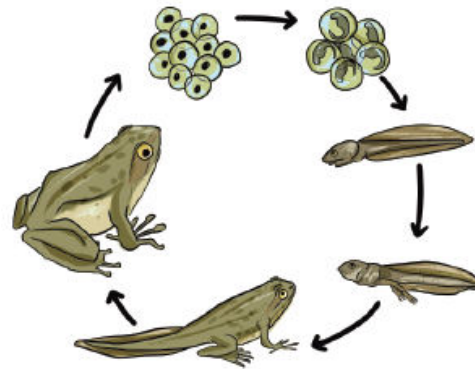
Reproduction in animals

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.

Mammals (for example: humans, dogs and tigers) use sexual reproduction to produce their offspring.

- The male sex cell, called the sperm, fertilizes the female sex cells.
- The fertilized cell divides into different cells and forms a baby with a beating heart.
- The baby grows inside the female until the end of the gestation period when the baby is born.

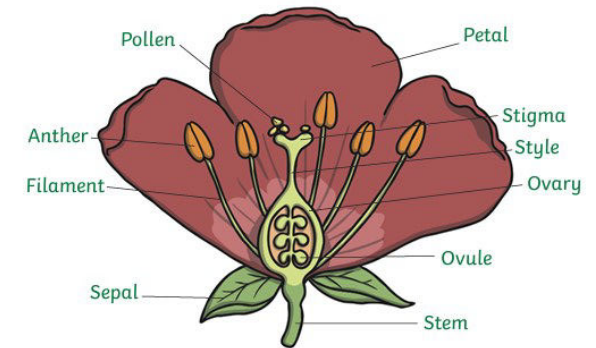
Unlike in mammals, the females of the following living things will lay eggs after fertiliza-



Sir David Attenborough (1926 - present) is a natural historian and broadcaster who has introduced millions of people to a variety of animals from around the world. He is also an important climate change campaigner.

Reproduction in plants

Most plants contain both the male sex cell (pollen) and female sex cell (ovules), but most plants can't fertilise themselves. Wind and insects help to transfer pollen from the stamen to the stigma of a different plant. (This process is called pollination). Once the pollen is transferred, it travels down the style to the ovule where the seed grows. Seeds are then dispersed by exploding plants, wind, water or animals and new plants grow.



Some plants such as strawberry plants, potatoes and daffodils use asexual reproduction to create a new plant. They are identical to the parent plant.

Fertilises	To develop a new individual by introducing the male sperm to the female egg.
Sexual re-production	Method of producing plants and animals in which the male sex cell and female sex cell join.
Asexual reproduction	Method of producing new offspring with a single parent.
Live young	When animals give birth to live offspring (do not lay eggs).
Metamorphosis	The process of transformation from an immature form to an adult (common in insects).
Gestation	The time it takes for a baby to develop inside the mother's body.
Plantlets	A young or small plant.