Living Things and Their Habitats

Some living things, such as plants, contain both the male and female sex cells. In others, such as humans, they contain either the male or female sex cell.

Echidnas and platypus are mammals but they lay eggs rather than giving birth to live young.

Humans develop inside their mothers and are dependent on their parents for many years until they are old enough to look after themselves.

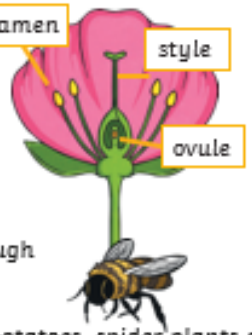
Amphibians such as frogs are laid in eggs then, once hatched, go through many changes until they become an adult.

Some animals, such as butterflies, go through **metamorphosis** to become an adult.

Birds are hatched from eggs and are looked after by their parents until they are able to live independently.

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 to a different plant. The pollen from the stamen of one plant is transferred to the stigma of another. The pollen then travels down a tube through the style and fuses with an ovule.



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

Key Vocabulary	
Life Processes	There are seven life processes which every living thing has in common - movement, reproduction, sensitivity, nutrition, excretion, respiration and growth. (MRS NERG)
Life Cycle	The different stages of life for a living thing.
Reproduction	Reproduction, also known as breeding, is a biological process by which organisms (the parent) creates new versions of itself (offspring).
Offspring	The child or young of a particular human, animal, or plant.
Mammal	A warm-blooded vertebrate animal that is distinguished by having hair or fur, females that secrete milk to feed their young, and (typically) the birth of live young.
Amphibian	A cold-blooded vertebrate animal e.g. frogs, toads, newts, salamanders, and caecilians. They have an aquatic gill-breathing larval stage followed by a terrestrial lung-breathing adult stage.
Metamorphosis (complete and incomplete)	(in an insect or amphibian) the process of transformation from an immature form to an adult form in two or more distinct stages.
Larvae	An insect after it hatches from an egg and before it changes into its adult form. Larvae do not have wings and look like worms. Examples: caterpillar and maggots.
Nymph	An immature form of an insect that does not change greatly as it grows, e.g. a dragonfly, mayfly, or locust.
Life Birth	It is not only mammals that give birth. Some reptiles, amphibians, fish and invertebrates carry their developing young inside them.

Reproduction in mammals

Mammals use sexual reproduction to produce their offspring.

- The male sex cell, called the sperm, fertilises the female sex cells.
- The fertilised cell divides into different cells and will form a baby with a beating heart.
- The baby will grow inside the female until the end of the gestation period when the baby is born.