

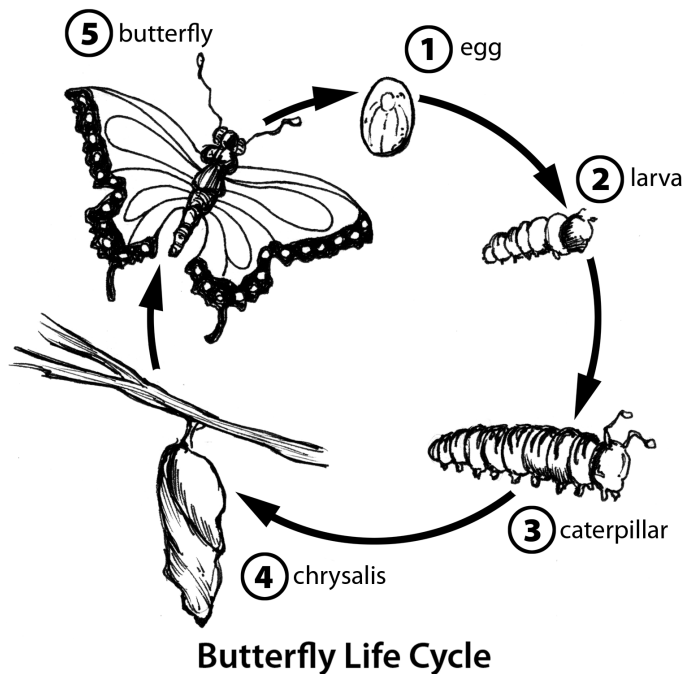
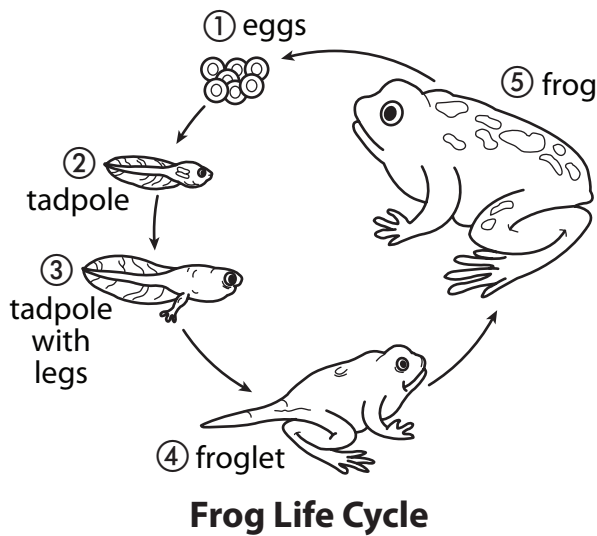


THINK About It: Life Cycles

SOL 4.5.e

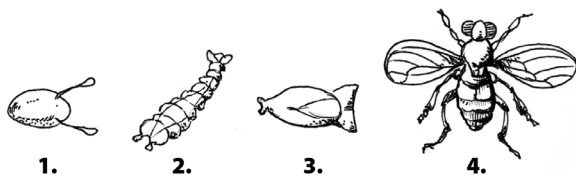
Organisms change over the course of their lives. The stages they go through are called their **life cycle**. The human life cycle is *infancy, childhood, adolescence, young adulthood, adulthood, and old age*. People in one stage are different from people in another; for example, your parents or guardians are different in many ways from you.

However, whether infant or adult, all people are recognizably human beings. Some organisms have life cycles that include stages that don't even look like the organism! Many corals, for example, start life as free-swimming organisms, before settling down and building their stony homes. Below are the life cycles of two common animals:



The role organisms play in an ecosystem or food web may change over their life cycle. For example, tadpoles are herbivores that eat algae, while frogs are carnivores that eat insects.

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This is the life cycle of a fruit fly. During which of the following stages will the fruit fly reproduce?

- A 1
- B 2
- C 3
- D 4