

A close-up photograph of a brown sloth hanging from a tree branch. The sloth's long, shaggy fur is a light brown color. It has a dark face with small, dark eyes and a dark nose. The background is a dense, green forest with many leaves and branches.

Types of Living Things

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Printed in México

ISBN-13: 978-0-15-362021-8

ISBN-10: 0-15-362021-8

2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 805 16 15 14 13 12 11 10 09 08

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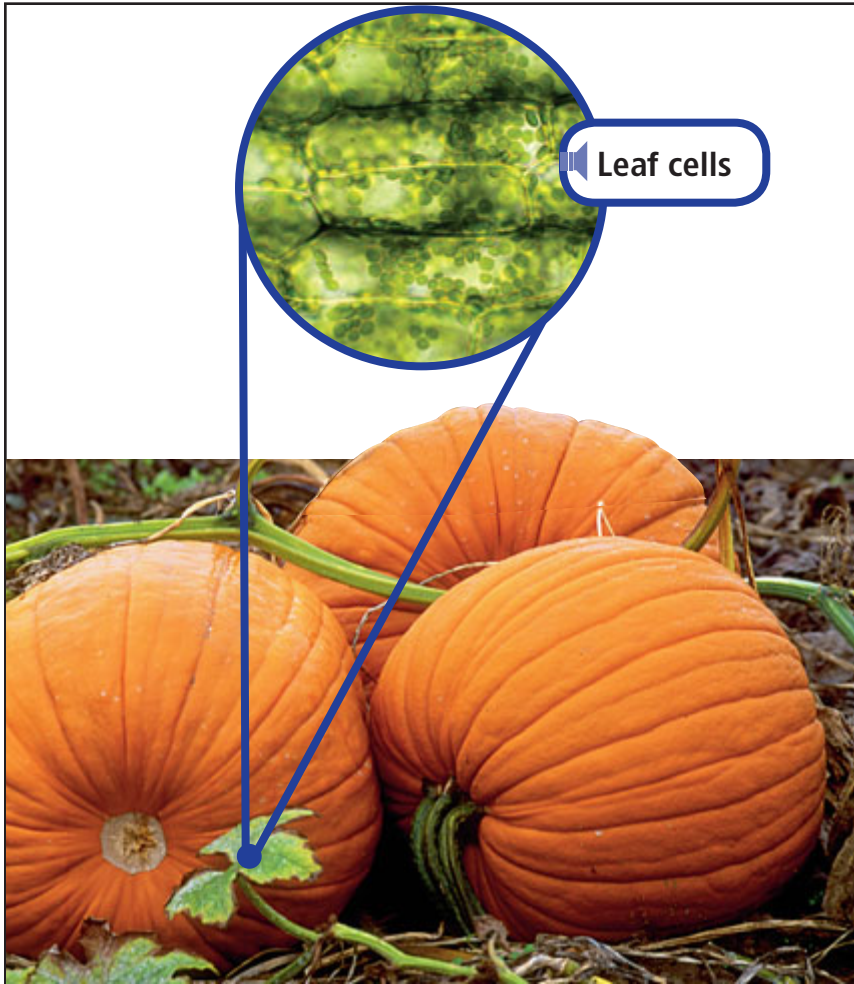
VOCABULARY

- organism
- cell

What Are Some Types of Living Things?



▶ An **organism** is any living thing. Animals and plants are organisms.



▶ A **cell** is a tiny building block that makes up every part of an organism. Each cell has its own job.



READING FOCUS SKILL

COMPARE AND CONTRAST

When you **compare and contrast**, you tell how things are alike and different.

Look for ways to **compare and contrast** living and nonliving things.

Living and Nonliving Things

Any living thing is an **organism**. It isn't always easy to tell a living thing from a nonliving thing. Here are some differences to help you.

Living things reproduce. A cat is a living thing. It has kittens. A plant is a living thing.

Many plants make seeds that grow into new plants. A rock is a nonliving thing. It does not reproduce.

This rooster is a nonliving thing.



■ Living things react to changes around them. Some plants lose leaves in cold weather. A mouse runs when it sees a cat. Nonliving things do not react to changes in such ways.

■ Living things need energy to grow. Animals eat food to get energy. Plants use energy from the sun to make food. Nonliving things do not need energy.



Tell three differences between living and nonliving things.

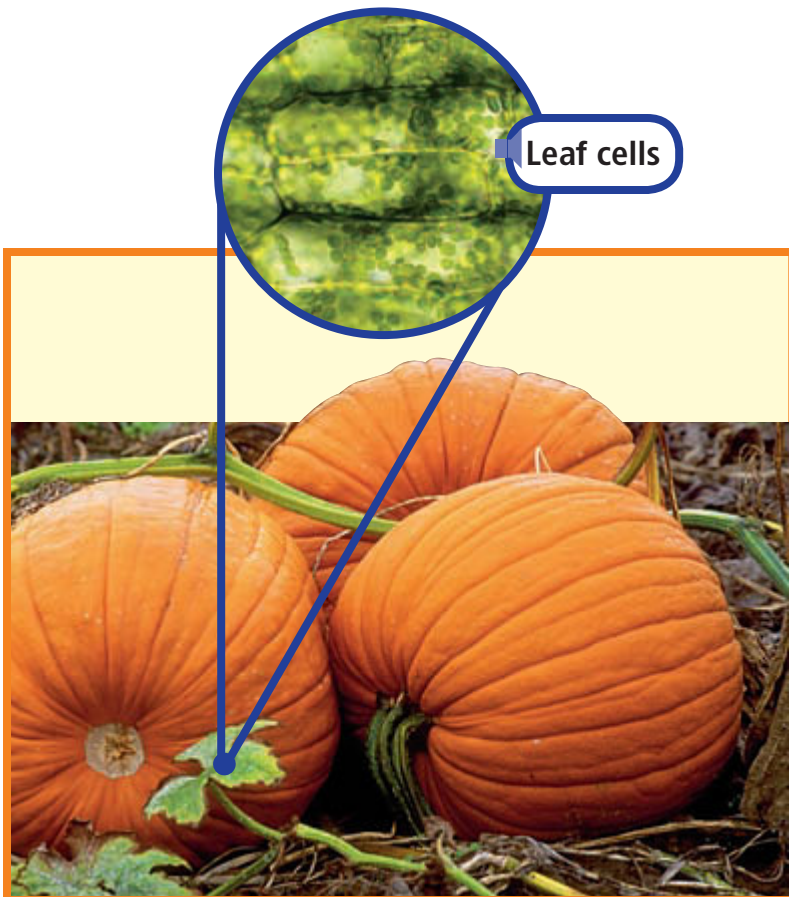


■ This rooster is a living thing.

Parts of Living Things

Living things are made up of many parts. You have a heart and a brain. You also have eyes, ears, and a nose. These are just some of your parts. Each part is made up of cells. A **cell** is a tiny building block. Each cell has its own job. Cells work together to help an organism live.

■ In a plant, leaf cells make food. Root cells take in water and nutrients the ground.



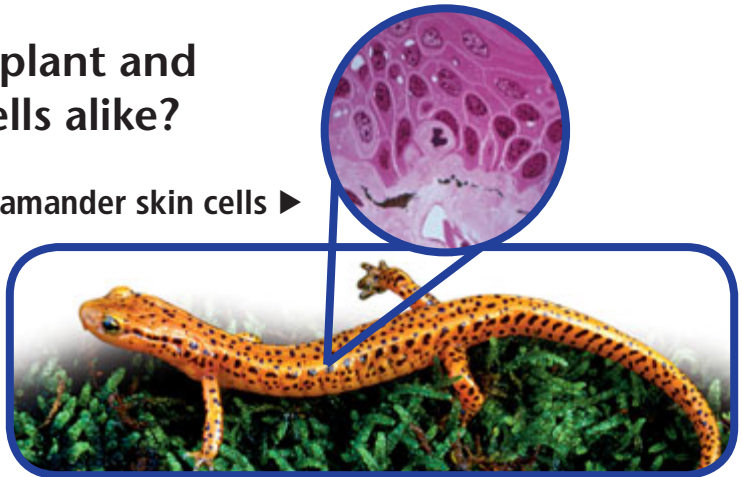
■ Animals are also made up of cells. Like plant cells, each one has a job to do. Skin cells join together to make skin. They help protect an animal. Muscle cells join together to make muscles. They help an animal move.

■ Cells in all organisms are very small. They are too small to see with just your eyes. You can see them only with a microscope.



How are plant and animal cells alike?

■ Salamander skin cells ►



Review



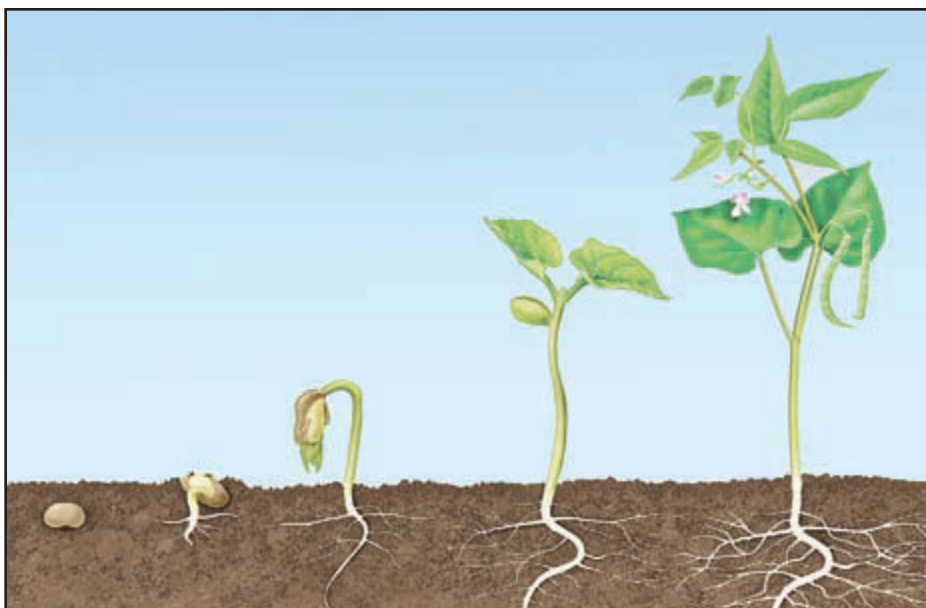
Complete the **compare and contrast** statements.

- 1. A rooster and a tree are both examples of living things, or _____.
- 2. A living thing reproduces but a _____ thing does not.
- 3. Plants and animals are both made up of many small _____.

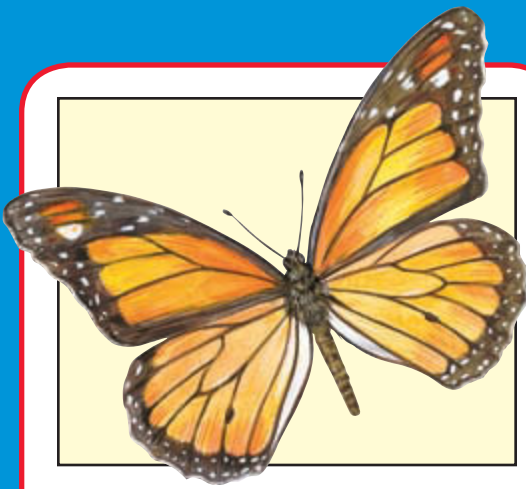
VOCABULARY

- life cycle
- metamorphosis
- larva
- pupa
- inherit

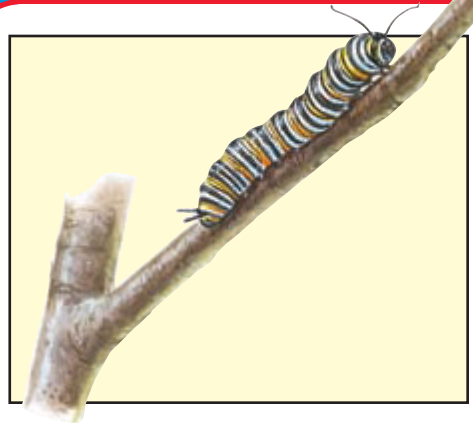
How Do Living Things Grow and Change?



A **life cycle** is the changes that happen to a plant or animal during its life. The life cycle of many plants begins with a seed.



▶ **Metamorphosis** is a series of changes in appearance that some organisms go through. Butterflies go through metamorphosis.



▶ A **larva** is the stage of a life cycle after an organism hatches from its egg. A caterpillar is a larva.



▶ A **pupa** is the stage of a life cycle where an organism is wrapped in a cocoon or chrysalis.



▶ To **inherit** is to have a trait passed on from parents to their young. A horse inherits its color from its parents.



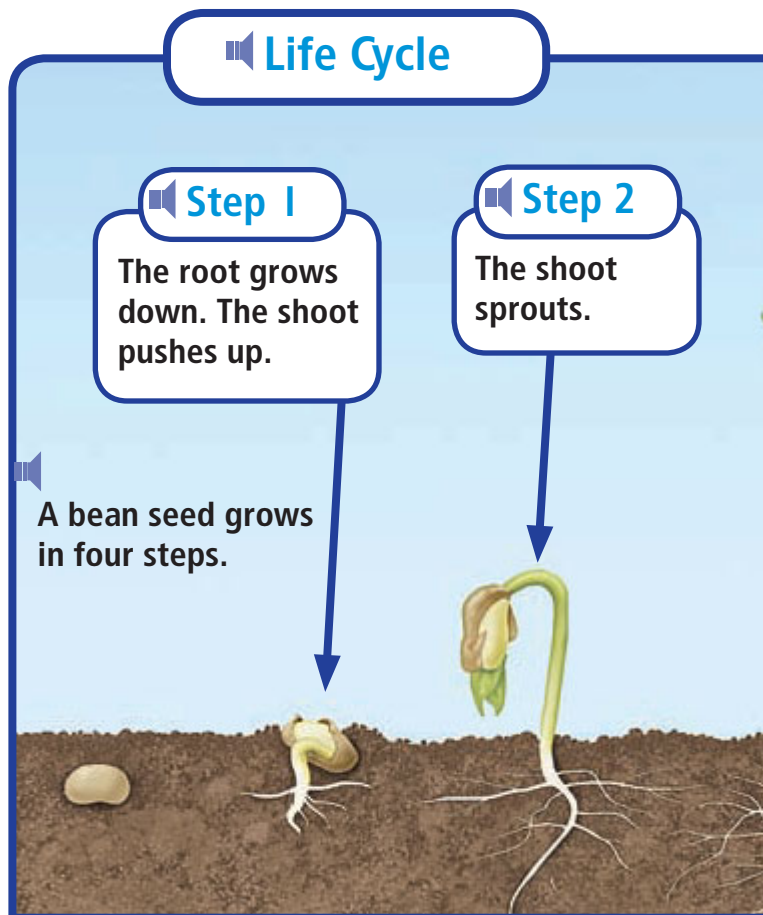
READING FOCUS SKILL

SEQUENCE

A **sequence** is the order in which things happen. Look for the **sequence** in which living things change.

Plants Grow and Change

Living things grow and change. The changes that happen to a living thing during its life make up its **life cycle**.

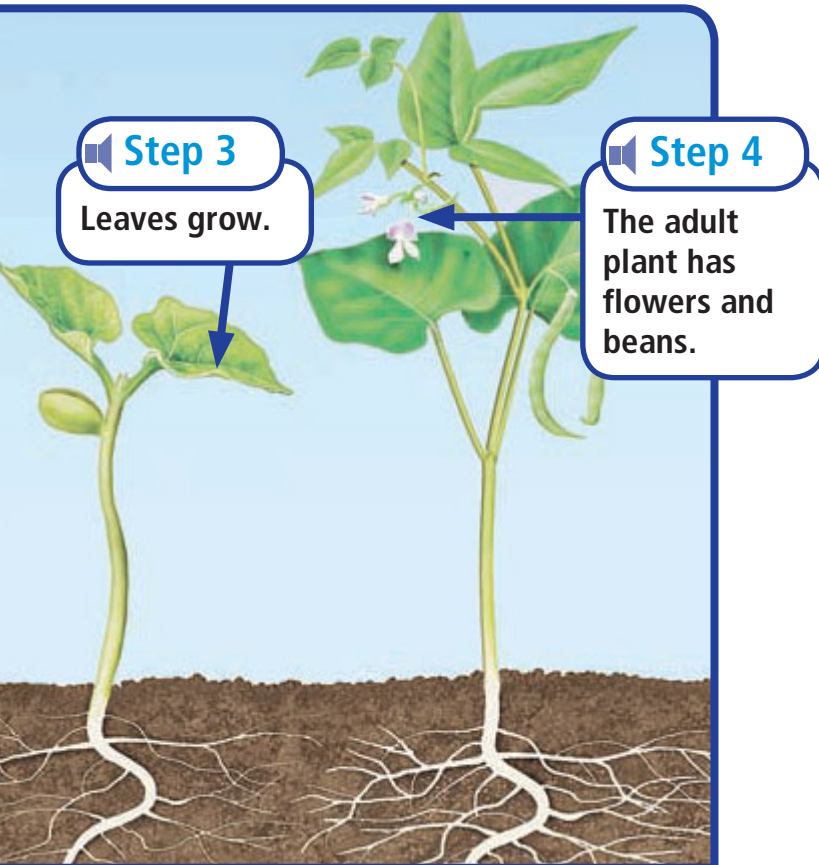


■ The life cycle of a bean plant begins as a seed. The seed grows into a plant. The adult bean plant grows flowers. The flowers make seeds that can grow into new plants. In time, the bean plant dies.

■ Not all plants grow from seeds. Some grow from underground stems called bulbs. Some plants can even grow from a leaf's stem.

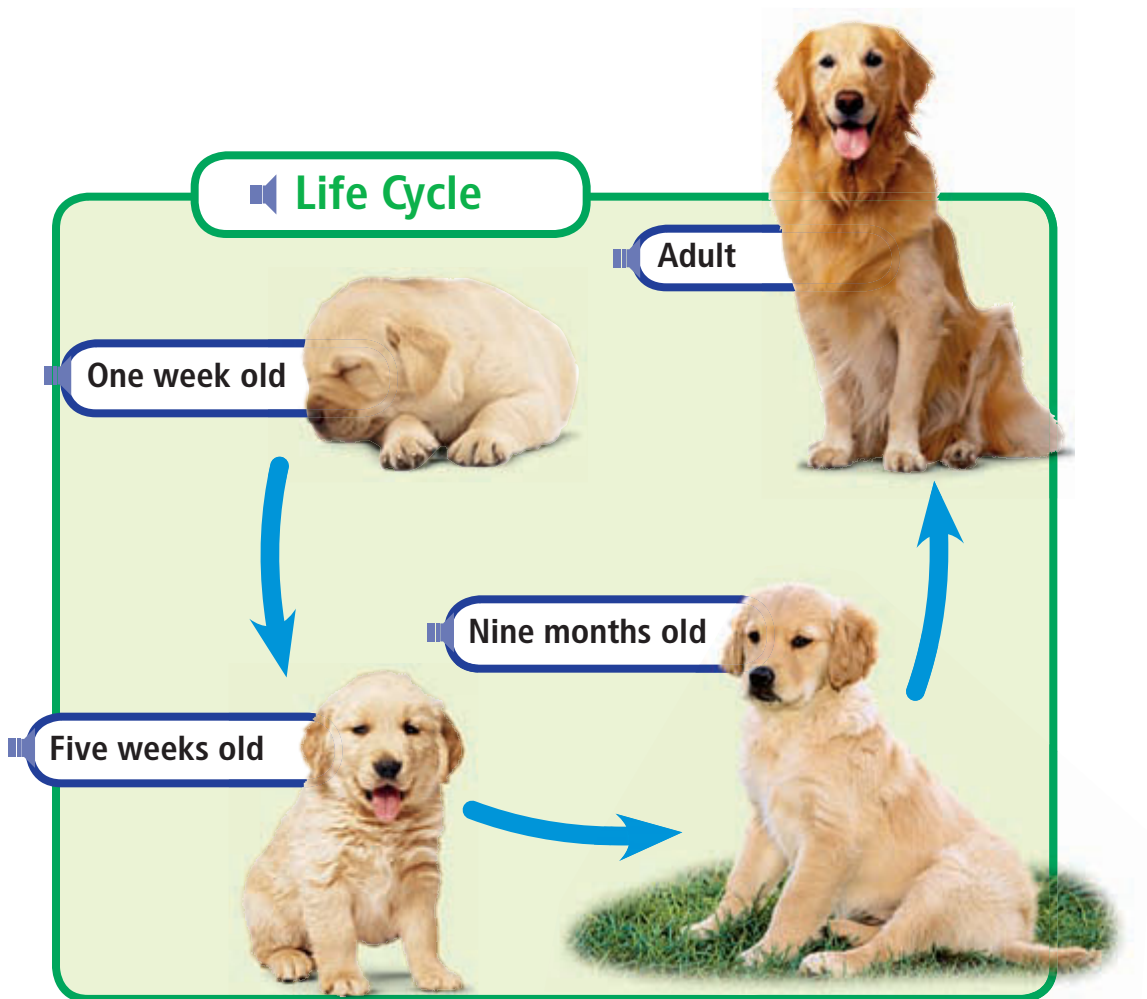


Tell how a bean plant grows from a seed.



Animals Grow and Change

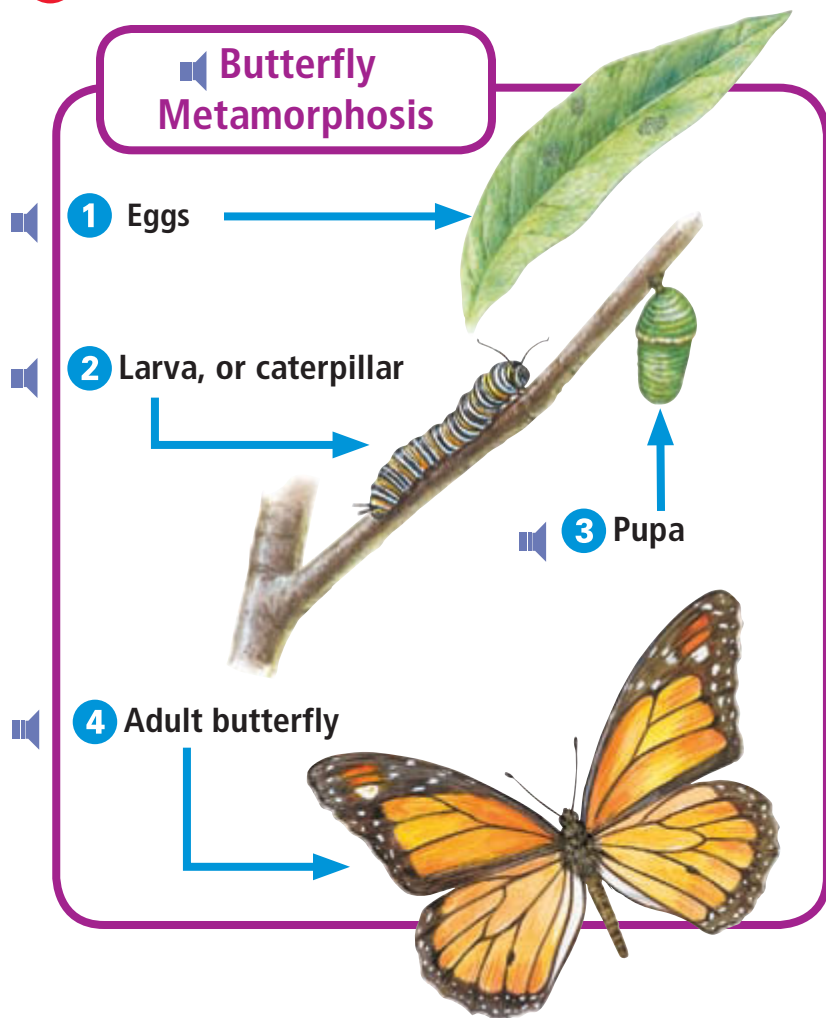
Animals grow and change during their life cycles. The life cycle for most animals starts with an egg. After an animal is hatched or born, it grows and develops. It becomes an adult and reproduces. In time, an animal dies. Look how the puppy below grows and changes.



Some animals go through changes in how they look, called **metamorphosis**. A butterfly goes through metamorphosis. Its life cycle begins as an egg. The egg then hatches into a caterpillar. In this stage of its life cycle, it is a **larva**. It eats and grows. Next is the **pupa** stage. The pupa is wrapped in a cocoon. A butterfly cocoon is called a chrysalis. In time, a butterfly comes out. The adult insect then reproduces.




What happens in the life cycle of a dog?



Heredity

Do you know someone who looks like his or her mom or dad? They share traits, or features.

 Living things **inherit** traits from their parents. This means that parents pass on traits to their young. All living things pass on traits. A red rose makes more red roses. Look at the horses. What might their young look like?



 ▲ Father horse



 ◀ Mother horse

- Look at the young horse. What traits did it inherit from its parents?
- Some traits are not inherited. Instead, a living thing will learn them during its life cycle. You learned how to talk. Birds learn to fly.



Tell how roses get their colors.

■ Young horse ►










Review



Complete the **sequence statements.**

- 1. The life cycle for most animals begins with an _____.
- 2. When a bean plant dies, its _____ is over.
- 3. During _____, a caterpillar goes into a chrysalis and comes out as a butterfly.
- 4. When organisms reproduce, they pass on _____ to their young.

GLOSSARY

-  **cell** (SEL) A tiny building block that makes up every part of an organism (6)
-  **inherit** (in•HEHR•it) To have a trait passed on from the parents of the organism (14)
-  **larva** (LAHR•vuh) The stage of complete metamorphosis, or change, after an organism hatches from its egg (13)
-  **life cycle** (LYF CY•kuhl) The changes that happen to an organism during its life (10)
-  **metamorphosis** (met•uh•MAWR•fuh•sis) A series of changes in appearance that some organisms go through (13)
-  **organism** (AWR•guh•niz•uhm) Any living thing (4)
-  **pupa** (PYOO•puh) The stage of complete change, or metamorphosis, where an organism is wrapped in a cocoon/chrysalis; a butterfly cocoon is called a chrysalis (13)

🔊 **Think About the Reading**

- 🔊 **1.** How can you tell if something is living or nonliving? What makes up all plants and animals?
- 🔊 **2.** What is a life cycle? How do plants and animals grow and change?

🔊 **Hands-On Activity**

Use leaves with stems, a jar of water, flower pots, and soil to explore growing new plants from plant parts.

- 🔊 **1.** Gather leaves with stems from different plants such as ivy and violet plants.
- 🔊 **2.** Place the stem of each leaf in a jar of water. Draw or write your observations each day for at least one week. Add water as needed.
- 🔊 **3.** If a leaf stem begins to grow, plant it in a pot of soil. Place in a sunny spot. Water as needed. Explain what happens.

🔊 **School-Home Connection**

Tell a family member what you read about heredity. Together, look for examples of common traits among members of a family. Decide if the traits are inherited or learned.

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ISBN-13: 978-0-15-362021-8

ISBN-10: 0-15-362021-8



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