


**PRINT VERSION**



Lower & Upper Grades

# Unit Outline & Lesson Plans for Easy Planning

Sample Unit Outline				
Here is a sample unit calendar that you can use as a guide during the unit. Your unit may differ depending on your own schedule and which journal version you choose to use (the older one is slightly different). Have students focus on 1-2 questions per day in their journals as you see fit.				
M	T	W	Th	F
Assign partners Draw life cycle	Using the Internet for Research Lesson	Finding Credible & Reliable Sources Online and Citing the Source Lesson	Students put together journals Catch up.	What is a life cycle? What do I already know about life cycles?
Send parent letter	How do scientists learn about life cycles? Some interesting facts about life cycles are...	What are some differences between plant and animal life cycles?		
What stages does a life cycle go through?	At what point does a life cycle like its parent?	How long the life cycle compares other life cycles?		
Finish journals	Report work day	Work on diorama		
Report work day				

## Using the Internet for Research Mini Lesson

**You Will Need:**

- Using the Internet for Research Worksheet
- A computer or tablet that can be projected (on a screen or TV) for the whole class to view

**Instructions:**

- Have students come to the floor. Tell the students that you will be showing them how to use the Internet for research.
- Open up a kid-friendly search engine, such as [kiddle.com](http://kiddle.com). Tell students that they will be using a kid-friendly search engine for their life cycle research. Explain that using a search engine that is made for kids (rather than Google) will help them search for

## Finding Credible & Reliable Sources Online

Understanding if the websites you find through a search engine are credible and reliable is crucial online research. Use the tips below to help you ensure that the websites you use have good information that you can use for your research.

- Facts vs. Opinions:** When reading the information on a website, does the author provide only facts? If opinions are included in the information on the website, it may not be a good source for informational research.
- Dated:** Look for the website's copyright information (on the webpage) or when it was last updated. This will tell you how current the information is. Historical facts may not change, but information about a subject may update overtime.
- Real Errors:** A professional website that is credible will have a reader about a topic will be free of grammatical errors. If a website has a lot of errors, it is not a good source.
- Ad Content:** Websites like Wikipedia are not credible sources. Anyone can edit the content on these websites.
- Advertisements:** The website contain a lot of ads? If a website has a lot of ads on the sides of or in the middle of the page, they are typically commercial based and are not credible. The information on these websites is not reliable.

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## Finding Credible & Reliable Sources Online and Citing the Source Mini Lesson

**You Will Need:**

- Finding Credible & Reliable Sources Online Worksheet
- A computer or tablet that can be projected (on a screen or TV) for the whole class to view

**Instructions:**

- Hand out the Finding Credible & Reliable Sources Online worksheet.
- Discuss the contents of the worksheet with students. Each tip included on the worksheet will help students with their online research.
- Tell students that including what sources they use for their research is important to give credit to the author. (Depending on the grade level of your class, you may choose how you'd like student to credit sources differently.)
- Students are not expected to credit sources with bibliographic information until 6th grade (according to CCSS). Students in 4th and 5th grade can easily include the name of the website they used as a way to credit sources.
  - For example, with this website <https://www.kidzone.ws/animals/lifecycle.htm> students may use KidZone as their way to credit the source.
- Practice searching for websites and how to credit them.

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## Unit Preparation

**Pages to Copy:**

- Life Cycle Cards:** These will be put in a basket and drawn out by the students to assign each pair of students a life cycle. These projects can also be done individually. Eighteen life cycles are included with a picture of each one.
- Parent Letter:** This letter will be sent home on the first day of the unit. It will inform parents on the unit and ask them to send their student to school with informational texts about life cycles. It will also inform them about the Life Cycle Fair.
- Life Cycle Fair Invitation:** This is an invitation that will be sent home with students at the end of the unit to invite their parents to the Life Cycle Fair.
- Table of Contents & Index Worksheet:** To be used with the Table of Contents & Index Mini Lesson.
- Other Text Features Worksheet:** To be used with the Other Text Features Mini Lesson.
- Using the Internet for Research Worksheet:** To be used with the Using the Internet for Research Mini Lesson.
- Finding Credible & Reliable Sources Worksheet:** To be used with the Finding Credible & Reliable Sources and Citing the Source Mini Lesson.
- My Life Cycle Research Journal:** Each student will need a copy of this journal. There is a half-page option that will need to be cut and stapled in order, or a full-page option that will need to be stapled in order.

**Informational Texts for Life Cycle:**

- While parents will be asked to send their students with assigned books, not all students may bring them. Ensure that the students have access to books about life cycles. If you'd like to encourage students to bring books, you may give them an incentive for doing so!

**Shoe Boxes for Diorama:**

- For the final project, the students will need one shoe box for every 2 students. Encourage students to bring shoe boxes from home. However, if you notice there are not enough, make sure you track down enough boxes!

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The unit sample outline gives you an idea of how you could implement the unit into your schedule. (However, feel free to implement the activities however you see fit!) We have included lesson plans to prep your students for their research projects.




# Parent Letter and Invitation to Keep Parents Involved

**Dear Parent/Guardian,**

We are starting a new unit about life cycles. Students will begin researching an assigned life cycle using informational texts and the internet. Your child's life cycle is \_\_\_\_\_. If possible, please send your student with a book about this cycle. These books could be from the public library, the school library, or from home. We will begin using the texts on \_\_\_\_\_. If you are unable to help them find a book, we will make sure there are still texts available for your student to use.

After students have finished their research, the students will create a diorama of their life cycle in a shoe box. We will need one shoe box for every 2 students. If you have any shoe boxes we can use, please send them to school by \_\_\_\_\_. We will be displaying these at our Life Cycle Fair on \_\_\_\_\_.

Please let me know if you have any questions!



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**YOU'RE INVITED!**

You are invited to our Life Cycle Fair! Students will be showcasing their own life cycle dioramas created using their research. Information is below!

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Location:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Details:** \_\_\_\_\_



**We Hope to See You There!**



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We have included a letter to parents and a Life Cycle Fair invitation to help keep your students' parents and guardians involved and informed. You can type the dates and your name right into the letter.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Informational Text Features

Understanding the text features found in informational text is crucial to find the information you'll need about life cycles. Write the definition for each text feature below. You will use this as a reference while you're doing your research.

Table of Contents: \_\_\_\_\_

Index: \_\_\_\_\_

Glossary: \_\_\_\_\_

Titles: \_\_\_\_\_

Headings: \_\_\_\_\_

Photos: \_\_\_\_\_

Captions: \_\_\_\_\_

Graphs/Charts: \_\_\_\_\_

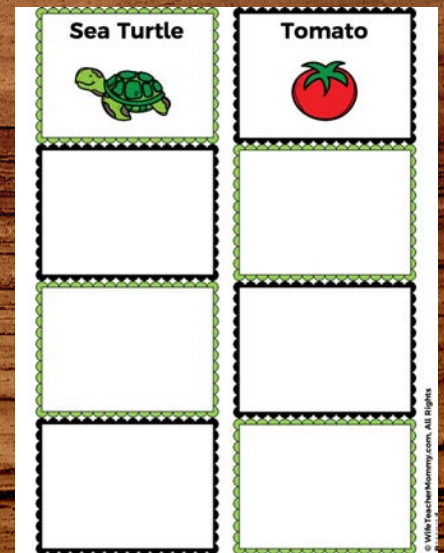
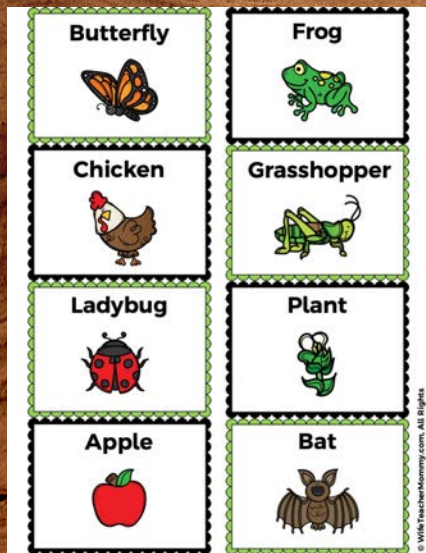
Special Print: \_\_\_\_\_

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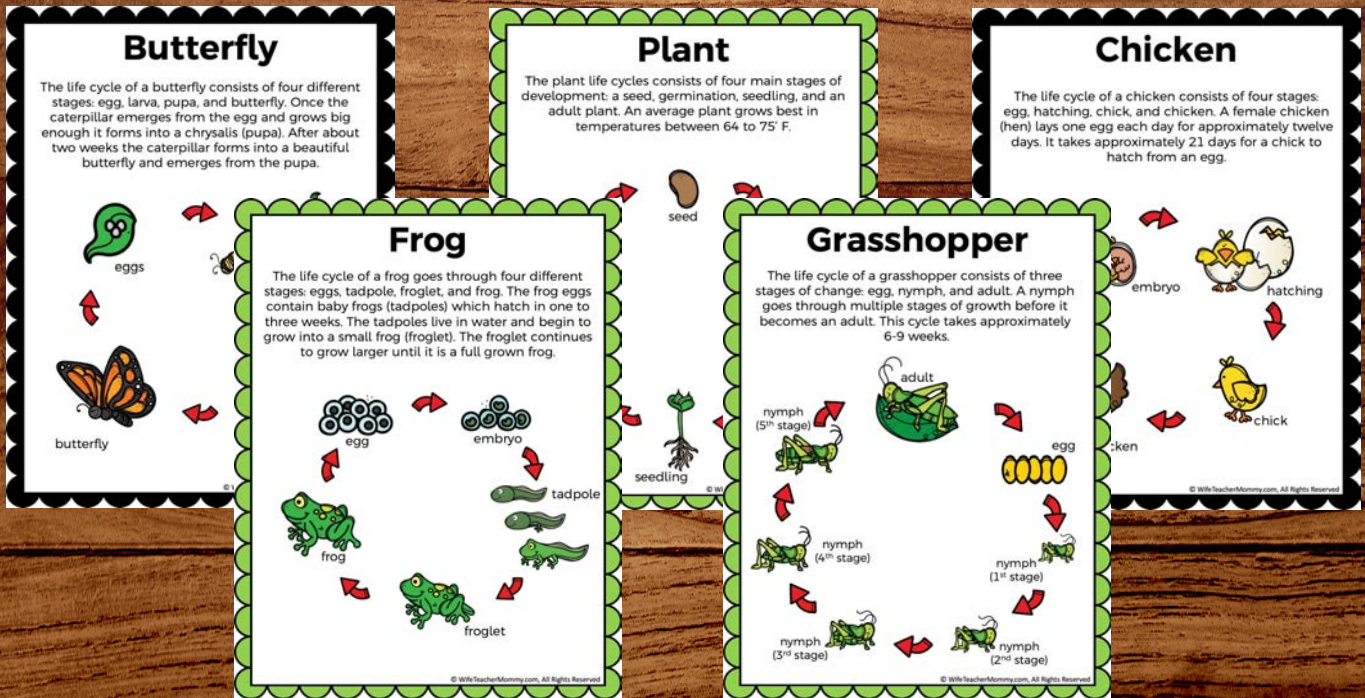


# Living Thing Cards to Randomly Assign a Life Cycle to Each Student



We have selected 18 living things with unique life cycles and have included cards spotlighting each of them for you to print, cut, and mix in a basket. Students will randomly choose which living thing's life cycle they will research.

# Colorful, Educational, & Easy to Understand Life Cycle Posters to Help Inspire Your Students



We have created colorful, easy to understand posters to go along with each of the life cycles. These can be used to help students think of keywords for their research or to help them with their dioramas.



# Credible Website Lists to Help You and Your Students Through the Research Process

Websites for Life Cycle Research	
Kid-Friendly Search Engines:	
<a href="http://www.kidrex.org">www.kidrex.org</a>	<a href="http://www.kiddle.co">www.kiddle.co</a>
Butterfly:	
<a href="https://www.kidsbutterfly.org/life-cycle">https://www.kidsbutterfly.org/life-cycle</a>	<a href="https://www.amnh.org/explore/news-blogs/on-exhibit-posts/butterfly-life-cycle">https://www.amnh.org/explore/news-blogs/on-exhibit-posts/butterfly-life-cycle</a>
<a href="https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/disc-over/animals/insects/butterfly-life-cycle/">https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/disc-over/animals/insects/butterfly-life-cycle/</a>	<a href="https://study.com/academy/lesson/life-cycle-of-a-butterfly-lesson-for-kids.html">https://study.com/academy/lesson/life-cycle-of-a-butterfly-lesson-for-kids.html</a>
<a href="https://nsp.org.au/bits/online-exhibits/butterflies/life-cycle/">https://nsp.org.au/bits/online-exhibits/butterflies/life-cycle/</a>	<a href="https://www.jovfulbutterfly.com/life-cycle-of-a-butterfly/">https://www.jovfulbutterfly.com/life-cycle-of-a-butterfly/</a>
Frog:	
<a href="https://www.timeforkids.com/5/1/life-cycles/">https://www.timeforkids.com/5/1/life-cycles/</a>	<a href="https://learning-center.homesciencecoops.com/article/life-cycle-frog/">https://learning-center.homesciencecoops.com/article/life-cycle-frog/</a>
<a href="https://www.kidzone.ws/w/frogs/facts3.htm">https://www.kidzone.ws/w/frogs/facts3.htm</a>	<a href="https://www.thoughtco.com/the-life-cycle-of-a-frog-130097">https://www.thoughtco.com/the-life-cycle-of-a-frog-130097</a>
<a href="https://education.lego.com/en-us/lessons/wedo-2-science/frogs-metamorphosis">https://education.lego.com/en-us/lessons/wedo-2-science/frogs-metamorphosis</a>	<a href="https://www.turtlediary.com/video/frog-life-cycle.html">https://www.turtlediary.com/video/frog-life-cycle.html</a>
Chicken:	
<a href="https://kidsifscience.com/article/567/life-cycle-of-a-chickenlogin?username=thealbtra&amp;password=library">https://kidsifscience.com/article/567/life-cycle-of-a-chickenlogin?username=thealbtra&amp;password=library</a>	<a href="https://www.planetoxkids.com/joban/animals/animal-life-cycles/life-cycle-of-a-chicken.htm">https://www.planetoxkids.com/joban/animals/animal-life-cycles/life-cycle-of-a-chicken.htm</a>
<a href="https://www.thehappychickencoop.com/chicken-life-cycle/">https://www.thehappychickencoop.com/chicken-life-cycle/</a>	<a href="https://www.backyardchickencoops.com.au/blog/learning-centre/chicken-life-cycle">https://www.backyardchickencoops.com.au/blog/learning-centre/chicken-life-cycle</a>
<a href="https://lcs-1f.com/chicken-life-cycle/">https://lcs-1f.com/chicken-life-cycle/</a>	<a href="https://www.pix-pages.com/farm-animal-science-chicken-life-cycle-cards/">https://www.pix-pages.com/farm-animal-science-chicken-life-cycle-cards/</a>

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Websites for Life Cycle Research	
Grasshopper:	
<a href="https://stemkids.goodbarber.app/science/20/156006567/life-cycle-grasshopper">https://stemkids.goodbarber.app/science/20/156006567/life-cycle-grasshopper</a>	<a href="https://www.ducksters.com/animals/grasshopper.php">https://www.ducksters.com/animals/grasshopper.php</a>
<a href="https://study.com/academy/lesson/life-cycle-of-a-grasshopper-lesson-for-kids.html">https://study.com/academy/lesson/life-cycle-of-a-grasshopper-lesson-for-kids.html</a>	<a href="https://www.sciencekids.co.nz/sciencefacts/animals/grasshopper.html">https://www.sciencekids.co.nz/sciencefacts/animals/grasshopper.html</a>
<a href="https://animals.mom.me/grasshoppers-life-cycle-6298.html">https://animals.mom.me/grasshoppers-life-cycle-6298.html</a>	<a href="https://kids.kiddle.co/Grasshopper">https://kids.kiddle.co/Grasshopper</a>
Ladybug:	
<a href="https://kids.growingstrong.org/ladybug-life-cycle/">https://kids.growingstrong.org/ladybug-life-cycle/</a>	<a href="https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/disc-over/animals/insects/ladybird-facts/">https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/disc-over/animals/insects/ladybird-facts/</a>
<a href="https://www.thoughtco.com/the-life-cycle-of-ladybugs-1968141">https://www.thoughtco.com/the-life-cycle-of-ladybugs-1968141</a>	<a href="https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/invertebrates/groupladybugs/">https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/invertebrates/groupladybugs/</a>
<a href="https://learning-center.homesciencecoops.com/article/learn-about-ladybugs/">https://learning-center.homesciencecoops.com/article/learn-about-ladybugs/</a>	<a href="https://study.com/academy/lesson/ladybug-life-cycle-lesson-for-kids.html">https://study.com/academy/lesson/ladybug-life-cycle-lesson-for-kids.html</a>
Plant:	
<a href="https://www.thoughtco.com/plant-life-cycle-for-kids-4176447">https://www.thoughtco.com/plant-life-cycle-for-kids-4176447</a>	<a href="https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/disc-over/science/nature/the-life-cycle-of-flowering-plants/">https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/disc-over/science/nature/the-life-cycle-of-flowering-plants/</a>
<a href="https://science4fun.info/life-cycle-of-plant/">https://science4fun.info/life-cycle-of-plant/</a>	<a href="https://www.turtlediary.com/videos/plant-life-cycle.html">https://www.turtlediary.com/videos/plant-life-cycle.html</a>
<a href="https://www.sciencekids.co.nz/games-activities/life-cycles.html">https://www.sciencekids.co.nz/games-activities/life-cycles.html</a>	<a href="https://www.scienceforkidclub.com/plant-life-cycle.html">https://www.scienceforkidclub.com/plant-life-cycle.html</a>

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Websites for Life Cycle Research	
Apple:	
<a href="https://sciencewithkids.com/science-facts/facts-about-apple-trees.html">https://sciencewithkids.com/science-facts/facts-about-apple-trees.html</a>	<a href="https://www.tutor.com/story/life-cycle-of-an-apple-tree-DqZDS6eD0tH0Jd0t1sH0w">https://www.tutor.com/story/life-cycle-of-an-apple-tree-DqZDS6eD0tH0Jd0t1sH0w</a>
<a href="https://web.extension.ilinois.edu/appl/edu/projects_68.cfm">https://web.extension.ilinois.edu/appl/edu/projects_68.cfm</a>	<a href="https://www.arnold.com/909e-apple-trees-through-the-year">https://www.arnold.com/909e-apple-trees-through-the-year</a>
<a href="https://www.simplykinder.com/apples-activities/">https://www.simplykinder.com/apples-activities/</a>	<a href="https://www.fast-growing-trees.com/pages/apple-trees-guide">https://www.fast-growing-trees.com/pages/apple-trees-guide</a>
Bat:	
<a href="https://www.westernnest.com/blog/bat-life-cycle/">https://www.westernnest.com/blog/bat-life-cycle/</a>	<a href="https://sciencing.com/life-cycle-bats-5179304.html">https://sciencing.com/life-cycle-bats-5179304.html</a>
<a href="https://animals.mom.me/life-cycle-little-brown-bat-8188.html">https://animals.mom.me/life-cycle-little-brown-bat-8188.html</a>	<a href="https://www.bats.org.uk/about-bats/a-year-in-the-life-of-a-bat">https://www.bats.org.uk/about-bats/a-year-in-the-life-of-a-bat</a>
<a href="https://www.batconservationireland.org/irish-bats/life-cycle">https://www.batconservationireland.org/irish-bats/life-cycle</a>	<a href="https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/group/bats/">https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/group/bats/</a>
Bee:	
<a href="https://study.com/academy/lesson/life-cycle-of-a-bee-lesson-for-kids.html">https://study.com/academy/lesson/life-cycle-of-a-bee-lesson-for-kids.html</a>	<a href="https://mocomi.com/life-cycle-of-bees/">https://mocomi.com/life-cycle-of-bees/</a>
<a href="https://thekidshouse24.com/post/the-first-21-days-of-a-bee-life-a-time-lapse-in-60-seconds">https://thekidshouse24.com/post/the-first-21-days-of-a-bee-life-a-time-lapse-in-60-seconds</a>	<a href="https://www.kidcyber.com.au/bees">https://www.kidcyber.com.au/bees</a>
<a href="https://www.scrimstatebeekeepers.org/honeybeelife-cycle.htm">https://www.scrimstatebeekeepers.org/honeybeelife-cycle.htm</a>	<a href="https://kids.kiddle.co/European_honey_bee">https://kids.kiddle.co/European_honey_bee</a>

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We have compiled a list of multiple credible and educational, safe websites for your students to use to research their assigned life cycle. This will make the research process easy and direct.

[illegible]

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# My Chicken Life Cycle Report

A large rectangular box with horizontal lines for writing.



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