Big Idea 17

Life Cycles

From frogs to flowers to friends, interest in living things comes naturally to students. Exploring the concept of the life cycles of living organisms is a powerful tool for helping students make sense of the complexity, diversity, and interconnectedness of life on Earth. It is also an opportunity to see order in the natural world and to see how that order can be studied and predicted using the tools of science.

Enduring Understandings

- Patterns exist in the universe.
- All living things have characteristics in common.
- There is a sequence of events in a natural cycle.
- All living things have a life cycle.
- Living things change throughout their lifetimes.
- Living organisms have identifiable features that allow them to survive as a species.

Vocabulary List

- Adaptation
- Biology
- Botany
- Cell
- Cycle
- Development
- Diversity
- Genetic
- Life cycle
- Organism
- Population
- Reproduce
- Species
- Stage
- Sustain

Essential Questions

Use these questions to help students understand the role of cycles and patterns of life on Earth.

- What are some of the cycles that occur in nature?
- What does it mean to be alive?
- What do all living things have in common?
- What are the basic needs of living things?
- What are the basic functions of living things?
- Why are living things so different yet alike?
- How do organisms change as they go through their life cycles?
- Why do organisms change over time?
- What patterns of change can be seen among organisms?
- How do individual differences occur within species of living things?
- Why is there so much diversity among living things?

Add your own questions!