



Western Upper Peninsula Center for Science, Mathematics and Environmental Education

A partnership of

Copper Country & Gogebic-Ontonagon Intermediate School Districts and Michigan Technological University
Serving schools and communities in Houghton, Baraga, Gogebic, Ontonagon and Keweenaw Counties

Animal Life Cycles

Duration: 60 Minutes

Age Group: First Grade

Summary: Students will explore the life cycles of familiar wildlife and understand that living things grow and change

Sources Consulted:

1. Council for Environmental Education. Project Wild-Growing Up Wild: Sharing Nature with Young Children. 2010. Houston, TX: Page 38

Objectives:

After this presentation, students will be able to:

1. Explain an animal life cycle.
2. Name different stages of an animal life cycle
3. Define metamorphosis

List of All Materials Needed:

- Grow as we go cards
- Plastic stages of a frog life cycle
- Butterfly lifecycle wheel
- Metamorphosis sign
- Insect larvae and nymph samples
- Bug boxes
- 7 hula hoops

Introduction (5 minutes)

What is a life cycle? Babies have many different names- larvae, nymph, tadpole, cub, puppy, etc.

Activities:

Grow As We Go (10minutes)

Lay down the 7 hula hoops and put a yellow label by each one (Reptile, Mammal, etc)
Pass out a “grow as we go” card to each student. Have them stand by the hula hoop that describes which kind of animal they are, then figure out who is the youngest, next youngest, etc. for each animal. Go over the stages as a group..

Metamorphosis (10 minutes)

What is metamorphosis? It means “big change”. The adults and immature of species that go through metamorphosis rarely look the same. What does a baby frog look like? Pass around the stages of a frog.

Insect samples (10 minutes)

Pass around the samples of immature insects- make sure the students are extremely gentle with the specimens. They were collected by a grad student in Forest Ecology at Michigan Tech.

Life Cycle Hike (20 minutes)

Pass out the bug boxes, one to each student. Go on a hike and look for animals in the various life cycle stages- eggs, nymphs, larvae, adult. Many species of insects overwinter as eggs or larvae inside trees or underground so they can survive the winter. Now is the time they start emerging as adults.

Review (5 minutes)

Why do some “baby” animals look so different from the adults? They go through _____ (metamorphosis).

What are some of the names for baby animals?