

# Living things and their Habitats (Y5&6)

## knowledge

As part of their life cycle plants and animals reproduce.

Most animals reproduce sexually. This involves two parents where the sex cell from the male fertilises the female sex cell.

In other animals, such as chickens or snakes, there may be eggs laid that hatch offspring which then grow to become adults.

Animals, including humans, have offspring which grow into adults. In humans and some animals these offspring will be born dependent upon adults to care for their needs, such as babies or kittens. Over time, they will then grow into independent adults.

Some young undergo a further change before becoming adults e.g. caterpillars to butterflies. This is called a metamorphosis.

### Key Vocabulary

asexual reproduction

One parent is needed to create an offspring, which is an exact copy of the parent.

fertilise

The action of fusing the male and female sex cells in order to develop an egg.

gestation

The length of a pregnancy.

life cycle

The journey of changes that take place throughout the life of a living thing including birth, growing up and reproduction.

metamorphosis

An abrupt and obvious change in the structure of an animal's body and their behaviour.

pollination

The transfer of pollen to a stigma to allow fertilisation.

reproduction

The process of new living things being made.

sexual reproduction

Two parents are needed to make offspring which are similar but not identical to either parent.

