

Plant and Animal Offspring

Strand Life Processes

Topic Investigating offspring of plants and animals

Primary SOL K.7 The student will investigate and understand basic needs and life processes of plants and animals. Key concepts include
d) offspring of plants and animals are similar but not identical to their parents or to one another.

Related SOL K.7 The student will investigate and understand basic needs and life processes of plants and animals. Key concepts include
c) plants and animals change as they grow, have varied life cycles, and eventually die.

K.9 The student will investigate and understand that there are simple repeating patterns in his/her daily life. Key concepts include
c) animal and plant growth.

K.10 The student will investigate and understand that change occurs over time and rates may be fast or slow. Key concepts include
a) natural and human-made things may change over time;
b) changes can be observed and measured.

K.1 The student will demonstrate an understanding of scientific reasoning, logic, and the nature of science by planning and conducting investigations in which
a) basic characteristics or properties of objects are identified by direct observation.

Background Information

Many offspring of plants and animals are like their parents but not identical to them or to one another. Animals that experience metamorphosis have offspring that do not look like the adults. For example, the larvae of frogs, butterflies, mosquitoes, and ladybugs do not look like the adult animal. Other animals have offspring that look like the adult. Examples include humans, deer, dogs, dolphins, and birds.

Materials

- Pictures of baby and adult animals
- Pictures of young and mature plants
- Books about baby animals

Vocabulary

plants, animals, young, parents, adult, baby

Student/Teacher Actions (what students and teachers should be doing to facilitate learning)

Introduction

1. Ask students, “How are you like your parents?” Help them think of the many ways they are like their parents (e.g., hair color, eye color, personality). Turn the discussion to differences by asking, “What are some ways you are different from your parents?” Ask students to discuss how they are similar to and different from their siblings.

Procedure

1. Read and share books about baby animals. As you read, have students observe ways in which baby animals are similar to and different from their parents and siblings (e.g., size, coloring, type of fur or feathers).
2. After students make observations and talk about the similarities and differences, give each student one picture of a young plant or baby animal, or one picture of a mature plant or an adult animal. Have students match the young/baby with the mature/adult by searching their classmates’ pictures. Once they have found their partners, have pairs sit and talk about how their plants or animals have changed from the way they looked as young/babies to the way they look as mature/adults. Repeat a few times, giving students different pictures each time.
3. Sort pictures of baby animals and young plants using a chart. Have one group include baby animals and young plants that look like their parents. Have another group include baby animals and young plants that do not look like their parents.

Assessment

- **Other**
 - Give students a set of young/baby and mature/adult animal and plant pictures. Glue each pair of matched young/baby-mature/adult pictures side-by-side on a sheet of paper.

Extensions and Connections (for all students)

- Play a memory game to match pictures of young/baby animals and plants with mature/adult animals and plants. After playing as a group, this game could be put in a learning center for students to play.

Strategies for Differentiation

- Differentiate pictures of animals given to each group of students. Give more difficult matches to students needing a challenge.
- Use interactive software to group offspring to their parents. Limit the number of matches based on performance level.
- Use three-dimensional concrete animal models for students to match offspring to adult.