# **Animal Life Cycles Comprehension Check**

Use the vocabulary words in the box to complete the sentences in questions 1-5.

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| Asexual Reproduction Sexual Reproduction  Metamorphosis Life Cycle Disruptions Life Cycle |

1. When an organism produces an offspring without sperm or egg cells, they are using \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. A \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ describes the stages that a living thing goes through as it develops.
3. When an animal transforms from an immature form to its adult form, it experiences \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ often cause an unexpected shortening of an organism’s life span.
5. Producing offspring with sperm and egg cells is called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
6. Why do amphibians, fish, and reptiles tend to provide less care for their offspring than mammals or birds?
7. Explain the stages of metamorphosis a caterpillar experiences before becoming a butterfly.
8. What is a caterpillar wasp? How does it rely on other animals for survival?
9. What do all animal life cycles have in common?
10. Who is Maria Sibylla Merian and what did she study?

# **Animal Life Cycles Comprehension Check Answer Key**

Use the vocabulary words in the box to answer questions 1-5.

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| Asexual Reproduction Sexual Reproduction  Metamorphosis Life Cycle Disruptions Life Cycle |

1. When an organism produces an offspring without sperm or egg cells, they are using asexual reproduction.
2. A life cycle describes the stages that a living thing goes through as it develops.
3. When an animal transforms from an immature form to its adult form, it experiences metamorphosis.
4. Life cycle disruptions often cause an unexpected shortening of an organism’s life span.
5. Producing offspring with sperm and egg cells is called sexual reproduction.
6. Why do amphibians, fish, and reptiles tend to provide less care for their offspring than mammals or birds?
   1. Amphibians, fish, and reptiles tend to provide less care for their offspring than mammals or birds because most are not likely to survive to adulthood.
7. Explain the stages of metamorphosis a caterpillar experiences before becoming a butterfly.
   1. After hatching from the egg, a caterpillar will grow until it is ready for metamorphosis. The caterpillar becomes a pupa that forms a hard outer shell called a chrysalis. While inside the chrysalis, the caterpillar experiences many changes and becomes a butterfly. Once the metamorphosis is complete, the butterfly will break out of its shell and start the life cycle again.
8. What is a caterpillar wasp? How does it rely on other animals for survival?
   1. A caterpillar wasp is an insect that relies on caterpillars for further survival because it lays its eggs inside caterpillars. The larvae also rely on the caterpillar for food and as a location to experience their own metamorphosis.
9. What do all animal life cycles have in common?
   1. All animal life cycles begin with birth, include growth through their lives, and end with death.
10. Who is Maria Sibylla Merian and what did she study?
    1. Maria Sibylla Merian is a famous scientist who studied butterflies and their life cycle. Maria made many illustrations to show how caterpillars become butterflies through the process of metamorphosis.