Life Cycles: Same Steps, Different Stories

How do living things grow, change, and begin again?

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Key words

life cycle

steps a living thing goes through from start to end

growth

getting bigger and changing over time

reproduction

making new young like itself

metamorphosis

a very big change in body shape

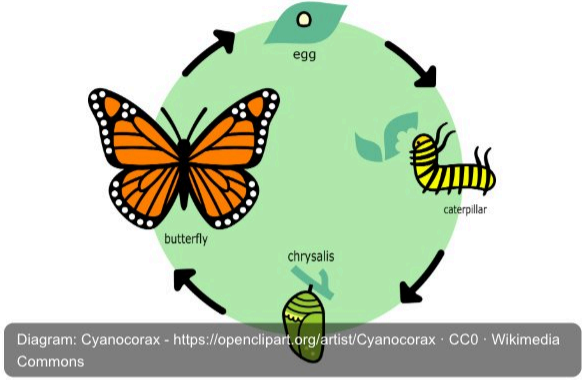
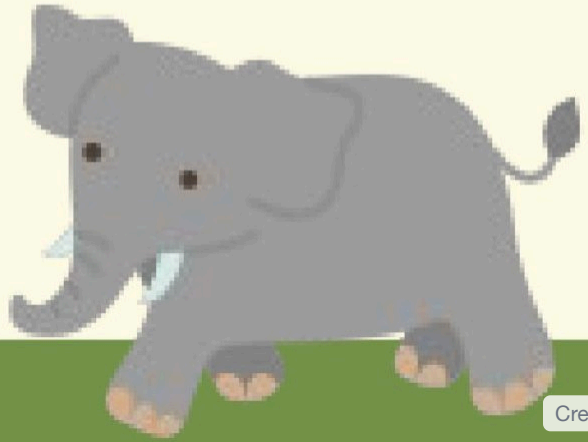


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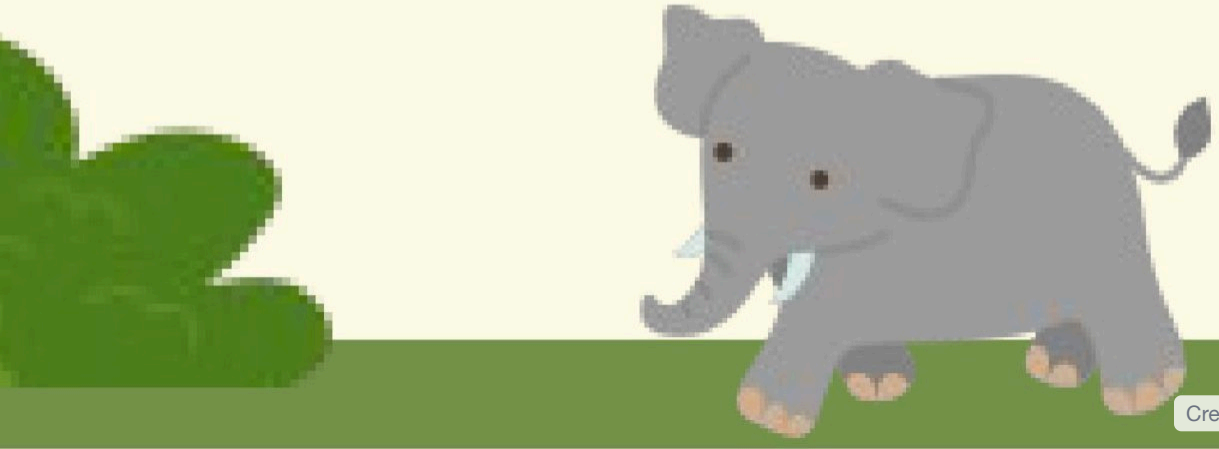
Two amazing changers

Butterfly

- Starts as tiny egg on leaf
- Hatches to hungry caterpillar
- Changes inside a chrysalis

Frog

- Starts as jelly egg in water
- Hatches to swimming tadpole
- Grows legs, loses tail



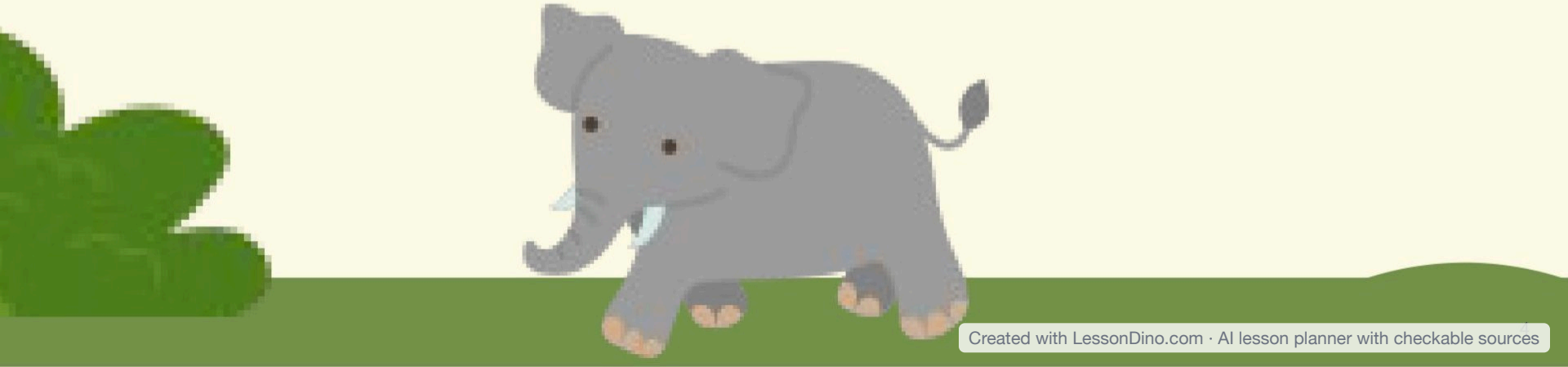
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Which change wows you most?

Which life cycle change is the most amazing?

- **A** Caterpillar to butterfly
- **B** Tadpole to frog
- **C** Seed to flowering plant
- **D** Baby to grown-up

Vote with your hands, then explain why.



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Watch: Same steps, different lives



▶ 0:00 – 1:51

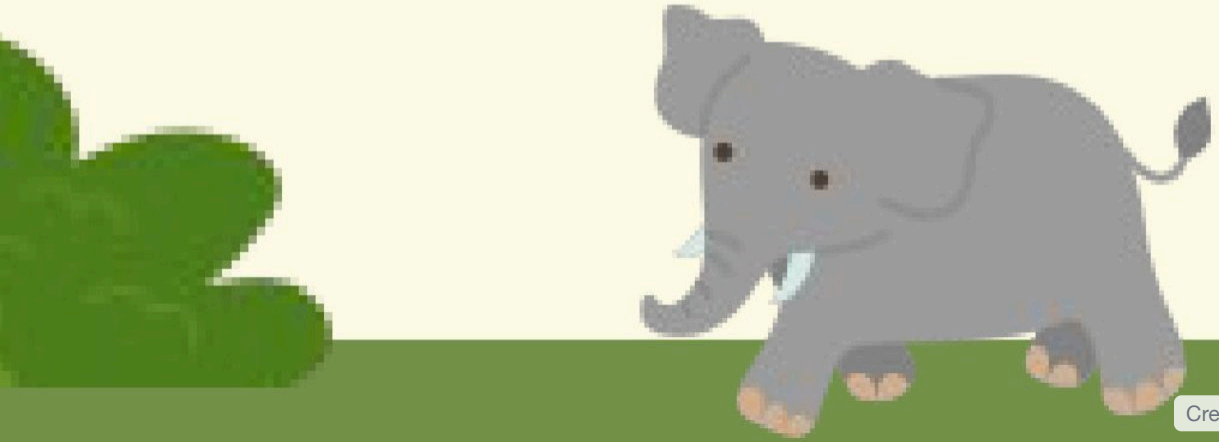
- Spot birth, growth, reproduction, and death
- Notice how the starts look very different

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DID YOU KNOW?

One ostrich egg equals about 24 chicken eggs!

Births can look very different, but every animal is born or hatches.



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Watch: How plants begin again



▶ 0:00 – 5:00

- Watch seed sprout and grow up
- Find flower, fruit, and new seeds

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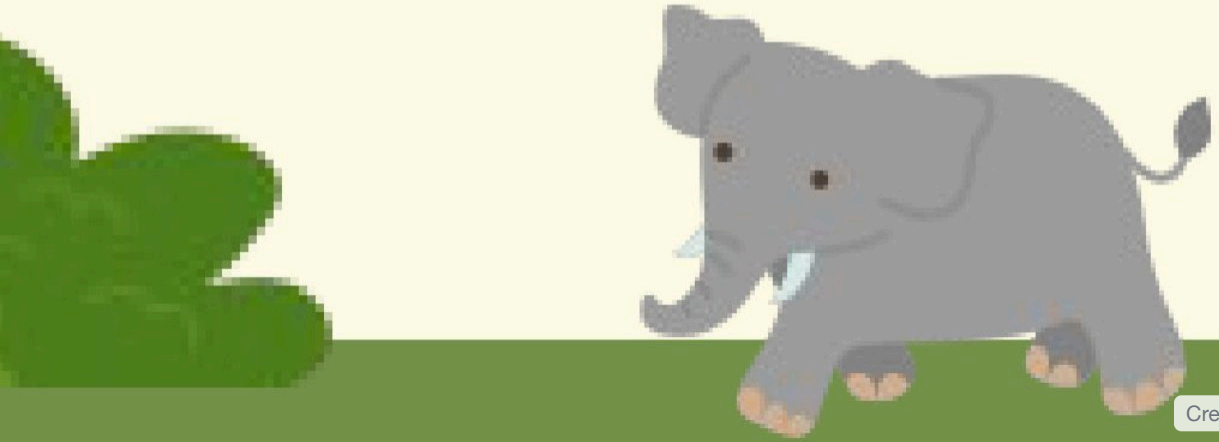
Your task

In pairs, build a circle model of two life cycles.

1. Pick butterfly and flowering plant.
2. Draw a circle with 4 steps in order.
3. Label birth, growth, reproduction, death.

15 min

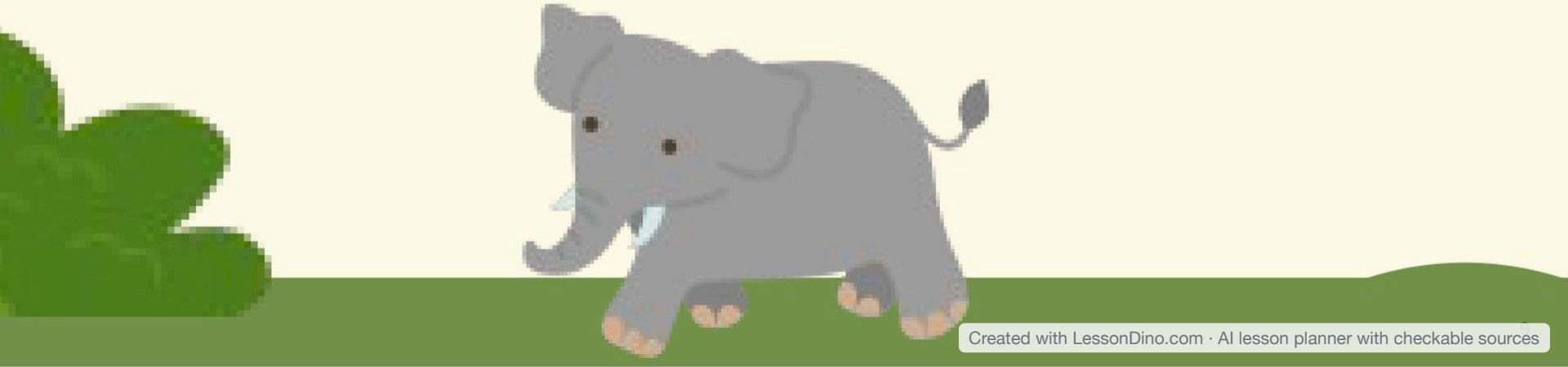
In pairs



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Totally different, same animal!

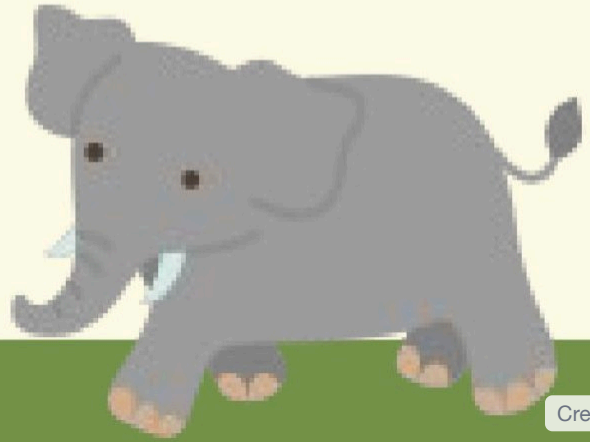
- This swimmer will become a hopper. Its tail shrinks and legs grow.



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Think, pair, share

If all life cycles share the same 4 steps, why do they look so different?



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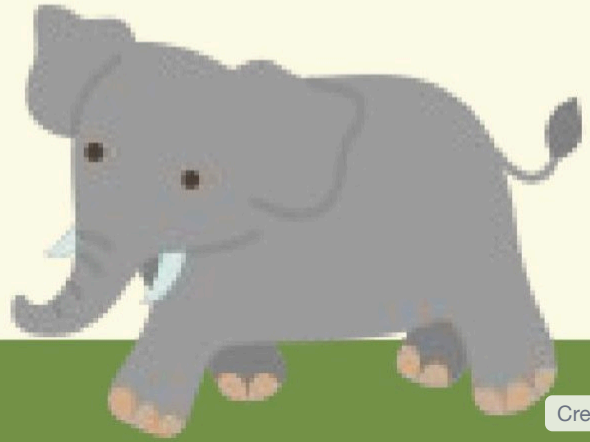
True or false?

All living things have a life cycle.

Butterflies and frogs change shape a lot.

Only animals have life cycles.

All cycles share birth, growth, reproduction, death.



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