

This half term, we will be learning:

- The life cycles of plants and how they reproduce in different ways.
- The life cycles of mammals, amphibians, insects and birds, and how they differ.
- How reproduction happens in both plants and animals.
- The work of naturalists and animal behaviourists, and why their studies are important.



Great conversation starters:

- How do seeds grow into new plants?
- Do all animals have the same kind of life cycle?
- Why do some animals lay eggs while others give birth to live young?
- Which scientists or wildlife experts do you know who study the natural world?



Ideas you could try at home:

- **Seed growing:** Plant a fast-growing seed (like cress) and keep a diary of its growth.
- **Bug hotel:** Build a simple bug hotel in your garden or balcony using twigs, leaves and old plant pots.
- **Life cycle spotting:** Look for evidence of life cycles in your area, like frogspawn in ponds, caterpillars on leaves or birds nesting.
- **Wildlife watch:** Spend ten minutes quietly in a green space and note down the animals you see.

Where possible, you may enjoy exploring these scientists in books, online or just in conversation:

- **Charles Darwin (1809–1882)** – Naturalist who developed the theory of evolution by natural selection.
- **Jane Goodall (b. 1934)** – Primatologist who spent years studying chimpanzees and transformed our understanding of animal behaviour.
- **Konrad Lorenz (1903–1989)** – Animal behaviourist known for his research into how young animals bond with their parents.
- **George Washington Carver (1864–1943)** – Agricultural scientist and inventor who promoted sustainable farming and studied how plants could improve people’s lives.



Books & Websites – Try your local library for some of these:

Visit your **local library** to explore books about plants, animals and life cycles. A great start is *Life Cycles* by DK Children.

- BBC Bitesize website – Living Things and their Habitats.
- National Geographic Kids website – excellent articles and videos about plants and animals from around the world.

