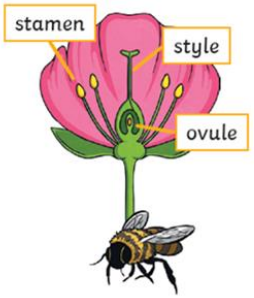
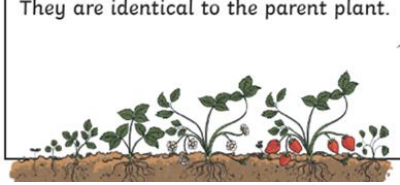
SCIENCE - LIVING THINGS AND THEIR HABITATS

Plants

Most plants contain both the male sex cell (pollen) and female sex cell (ovules), but most plants can't fertilise themselves. Wind and insects help to transfer pollen to a different plant. The pollen from the stamen of one plant is transferred to the stigma of another. The pollen then travels down a tube through the style and fuses with an ovule.



Some plants, such as strawberry plants, potatoes, spider plants and daffodils use asexual reproduction to create a new plant. They are identical to the parent plant.



Vocabulary+	
Asexual reproduction	One parent is needed to make off spring, which is an exact copy of the parent
Sexual reproduction	Two parents are needed to make off spring, which are similar but not identical to the parents
Fertilisation	The action of fusing male and female sex cells in order to develop an egg
Gestation	The length of pregnancy
Life Cycle	The journey of changes that take place throughout the life of a living thing
Metamorphosis	An abrupt and obvious change in the structure of an animals body and behaviour
Pollination	The transfer of pollen to a stigma to allow fertilisation
Reproduction	The process of new living things being made

Some living things, such as plants, contain both male and female sex cells. In others, such as humans they contain either the male or female sex cell.

Humans develop inside their mothers and are dependent on their parents for many years until they are old enough to look after themselves.

Amphibians such as frogs are laid in eggs then, once hatched, go through many changes until they become an adult.

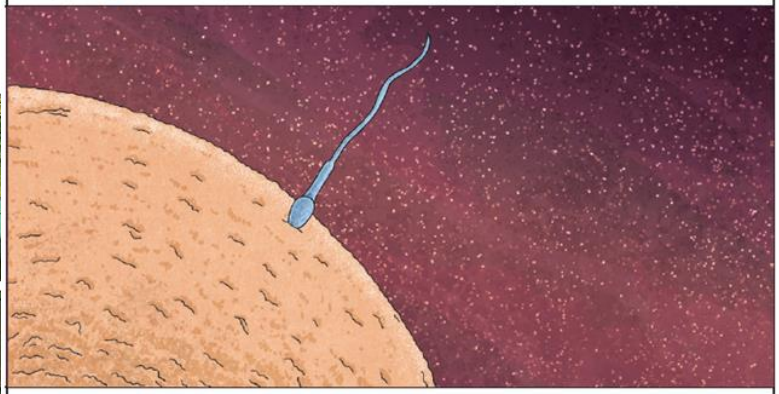
Some animals, such as butterflies, go through metamorphosis to become an adult.

Birds are hatched from eggs and are looked after by their parents until they are able to live independently.

Reproduction in mammals

Mammals use sexual reproduction to produce their offspring.

- The male sex cell, called the sperm, fertilises the female sex cells.
- The fertilised cell divides into different cells and will form a baby with a beating heart.
- The baby will grow inside the female until the end of the gestation period when the baby is born.



Echidnas and platypus are mammals but they lay eggs rather than giving birth to live young.