

Topic 5: Life Cycles and Traits

Lesson 1- Life Cycles:

1. An organism is a living thing, such as a plant or an animal.
2. There are many diverse, or many different kinds, of organisms.
3. Every organism begins life, grows, and dies.
4. Living things also reproduce, which means to make more Organisms of the same kind as the parent.

5. Plant Reproduction:

- Seeds come in many different sizes, shapes, and colors, but all seeds have the same parts: outer covering, tiny plant, food
- The **outer covering** protects the plant.
- Inside the seed is a **tiny plant** that with the right temperature, air, and water it can sprout
- The seed stores **food** that the tiny plant uses when it starts to grow into a new plant

6. Animal Reproduction

- Most animals start out as an egg
- Animals have different ways of protecting their eggs

7. Life Cycles

- Animals lay eggs and the young animal grows inside the egg until the animal is ready to come out

- When the animal is the right size it will hatch out of the egg

8. Similarities and Differences in Life Cycles

- Each organism has a different form of reproduction but all organisms follow the same pattern. It begins life, reproduces, and dies
- Some organisms hatch from an egg, others develop inside the mother until they are born.

Lesson 2- Inherited Traits:

9. Traits from Parents

- A trait is a feature of an organism. Ex: the way the body of an organism looks or works or something the organism does
- To inherit something is to get it from your parents or ancestors
- Ex: some animals know how to walk or feed themselves as soon as they are born

10. Traits of Parents and Offspring

- Offspring of the same parents have similar inherited traits
- Offspring look a little like their mother or father but never exactly like either parent
- Variation-the differences in organisms from the same parent

11. Traits in Similar Plants

- Plants of the same kind can vary, or be different, by their color, leaf shape, number of thorns on stem, or roughness of bark

Lesson 3- Traits Influenced by the Environment:

12. Inherited Traits and the Environment

- Some saguaro cactuses have more branches than others when the environment has more water

13. Environmental Factors

- The environment can influence, or have an effect on, inherited traits
- Water, the kind and amount of food, the temperature, the kind of soil, and the materials in the soil, air, and water are all some examples

14. Sunlight and Plant Traits

- Sunlight is an important factor that affects the traits of plants, especially its growth

15. Ecologists are scientists who study how living things interact With each other and their environment.