

# Life Cycles Grow with Me!

## Grades K-3 (9 book set)

Children need to connect with nature to better understand the world they live in. This 9 book set explores how plants and animals change as they grow, develop, and adapt over time. Inquire and investigate the life cycles of plants and animals using technology, engineering, science, math and art. Are you ready to start at the beginning?

**Books in this set:** *My Little Book of Life Cycles, Caterpillar to Butterfly, Egg to Bee, Tadpole to Frog, Seed to Sunflower, Acorn to Oaktree, Animal Babies Do the Strangest Things, Grow With Me!*

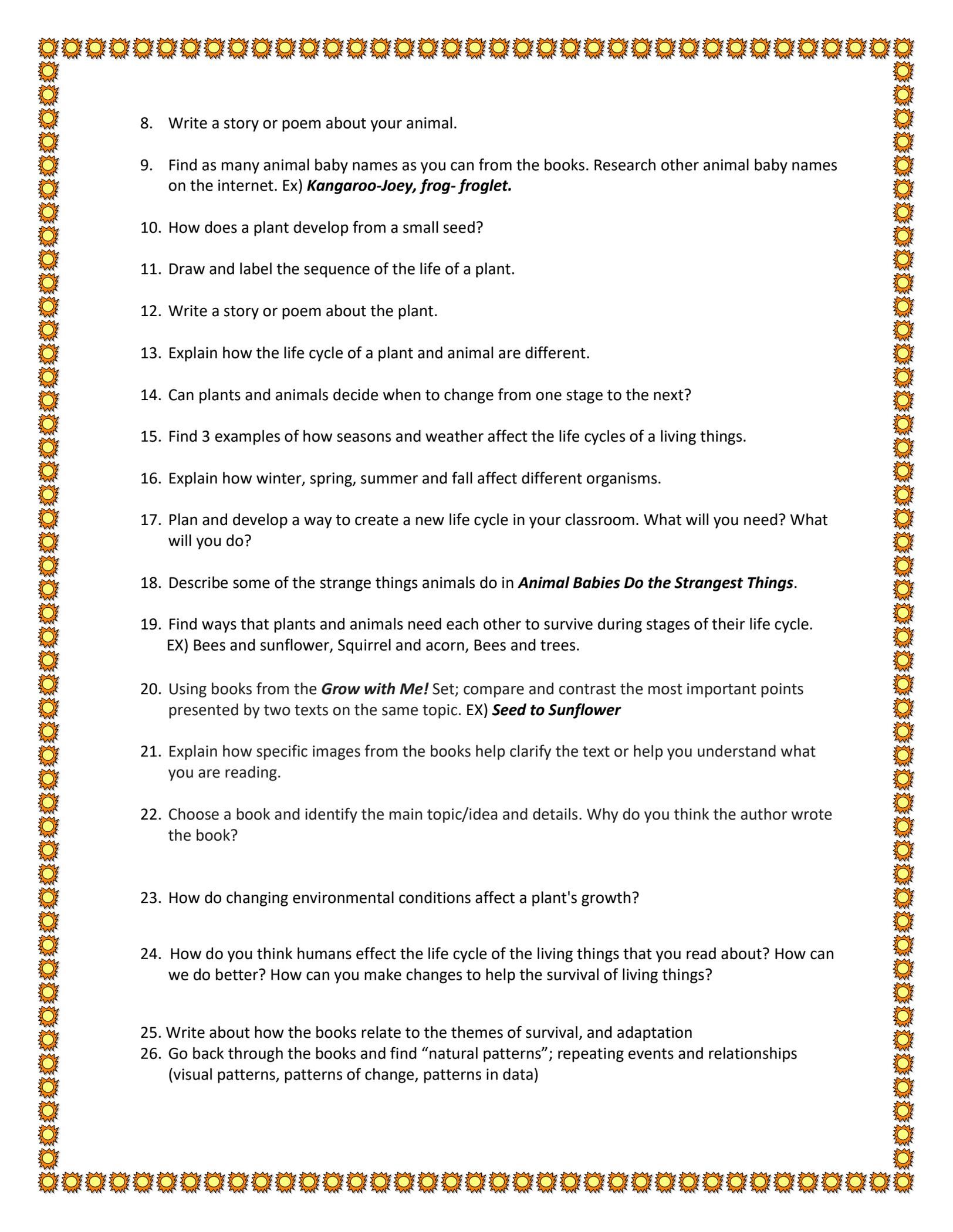
**Learning Objectives:** To understand that organisms reproduce, develop, have predictable life cycles, and pass on traits to their offspring. Organisms and their environments are interconnected.

### Essential Questions in this unit:

- What are the difference and similarities between plants, animals?
- How does a living thing go through a life cycle?
- How do organisms change as they go through their life cycles?
- How are life cycles different between organisms?
- How do seasons affect the life cycles of living things?
- How can I investigate the life cycles of living organisms?
- What changes can I make to help the environment?
- How can I create a new life cycle?
- How do plants and animals need each other?
- How are plants and animals interdependent?

All of the books in this set will give you a deep understanding of the life cycles of living things. Read through the books in the *Grow with Me!* Set to find out...

1. As you read through the books, write down new vocabulary words. Create a **“Life Cycle Word Wall”**
2. What are some characteristics of animals? Create a main idea and detail chart.
3. What are some characteristics of plants? Create a main idea and detail chart.
4. Draw and label the parts of a plant.
5. Compare and contrast animals and plants. Create a “Venn Diagram”.
6. What is a life cycle?
7. Draw and label the life cycle of an animal from the books using a circle and arrows.

- 
8. Write a story or poem about your animal.
  9. Find as many animal baby names as you can from the books. Research other animal baby names on the internet. Ex) **Kangaroo-Joey, frog- froglet.**
  10. How does a plant develop from a small seed?
  11. Draw and label the sequence of the life of a plant.
  12. Write a story or poem about the plant.
  13. Explain how the life cycle of a plant and animal are different.
  14. Can plants and animals decide when to change from one stage to the next?
  15. Find 3 examples of how seasons and weather affect the life cycles of a living things.
  16. Explain how winter, spring, summer and fall affect different organisms.
  17. Plan and develop a way to create a new life cycle in your classroom. What will you need? What will you do?
  18. Describe some of the strange things animals do in **Animal Babies Do the Strangest Things.**
  19. Find ways that plants and animals need each other to survive during stages of their life cycle. EX) Bees and sunflower, Squirrel and acorn, Bees and trees.
  20. Using books from the **Grow with Me!** Set; compare and contrast the most important points presented by two texts on the same topic. EX) **Seed to Sunflower**
  21. Explain how specific images from the books help clarify the text or help you understand what you are reading.
  22. Choose a book and identify the main topic/idea and details. Why do you think the author wrote the book?
  23. How do changing environmental conditions affect a plant's growth?
  24. How do you think humans effect the life cycle of the living things that you read about? How can we do better? How can you make changes to help the survival of living things?
  25. Write about how the books relate to the themes of survival, and adaptation
  26. Go back through the books and find “natural patterns”; repeating events and relationships (visual patterns, patterns of change, patterns in data)

## Activities

Bring in fruit. Cut the fruit open to find the seeds. Brush the open fruit with paint to create a stamp. Print on paper and make a beautiful design.

Create a “magic garden”- Collect seeds from lunch and snack time. Germinate and plant the seeds.

Design a giant symmetrical butterfly. Hang the beautiful butterflies from the ceiling.

Research the life cycle of various animals and create a life cycle graph/chart showing your findings (line, bar, pie chart). Explain why you chose to use a specific graph style.

In small groups, write and illustrate a book- ***Human Babies Do the Strangest Things***. Remember to go through the writing process; Brainstorm, plan, write, edit, re-write.

Write a diary of an animal as it moves through the stages of its life cycle (from the animal’s point of view)

Create a poster that will inform people on how to help the environment.

### For more information on this topic, please refer to the books below:

9781682970331	Acorn to Oak Tree
9781633221208	Animal Babies Do the Strangest Things
9781682970287	Caterpillar To Butterfly
9781682970324	Egg To Bee
9781609927158	My Little Book of Life Cycles
9781682970317	Seed To Sunflower
9781682970300	Tadpole to Frog