

Growth Stages of Plants and Animals

Chapter 4: Growing Up With Nature · Topic 1

Key Concept

A plant grows from a seed, to a seedling (young plant), to a mature plant that can flower and produce more seeds.

Many animals go through stages too - a frog starts as an egg, becomes a tadpole, then grows into a young frog, and finally an adult frog.

A butterfly has a dramatic transformation, called metamorphosis, going from egg to caterpillar, then to a pupa, and finally emerging as an adult butterfly.

Understanding growth stages helps us appreciate how living things change and develop, which is different for each type of plant and animal.

Quick Revision Notes

- A plant grows from seed to seedling to mature plant.
- A frog grows from egg to tadpole to adult frog.
- A butterfly undergoes metamorphosis: egg, caterpillar, pupa, adult.
- Metamorphosis is a dramatic transformation.
- Different plants and animals have different growth stages.
- Growth stages show how living things develop.
- Each stage has its own characteristics.
- Understanding growth stages builds appreciation for life cycles.

Practice Questions

- 1 Draw the growth stages of a plant from seed to mature plant.
- 2 Draw the life cycle of a frog.
- 3 Draw the life cycle of a butterfly.
- 4 Observe a growing plant and note its stage.
- 5 Research one more animal's growth stages.
- 6 Explain metamorphosis in your own words.