

Growth and Reproduction

Chapter 10: Living Creatures: Exploring their Characteristics · Topic 2

Key Concept

Growth patterns differ between organisms — plants often continue growing throughout their life, while most animals grow rapidly when young and then stop at a certain adult size. Reproduction can occur in two broad ways: sexual reproduction, requiring two parents (as in most animals and flowering plants), and asexual reproduction, requiring only one parent (as seen in some plants that grow from cuttings, or simple organisms that split in two). Both growth and reproduction require energy, obtained through nutrition and respiration.

Quick Revision Notes

- Growth is a permanent increase in size through cell division and enlargement.
- Reproduction produces new organisms of the same kind, continuing the species.
- Plants often grow throughout life; most animals grow rapidly when young, then stop.
- Reproduction can be sexual (two parents) or asexual (one parent).

Practice Questions

- 1 Describe the growth stages of a plant from seed to adult.
- 2 Explain the difference between sexual and asexual reproduction, with one example of each.
- 3 Why do growth and reproduction both require energy?