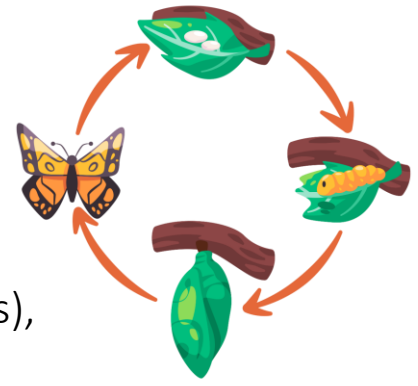


Name: _____

Date: _____

Life Cycles and Ecosystems

Every living thing on Earth goes through a life cycle. A life cycle is the series of stages that an organism goes through from the beginning of its life to the end. For example, a butterfly starts as an egg, then hatches into a caterpillar, becomes a pupa (chrysalis), and finally emerges as a beautiful adult butterfly.



Just like butterflies, plants also have life cycles. A sunflower, for instance, starts as a tiny seed. The seed sprouts into a seedling, grows into a tall plant, blooms into a bright yellow flower, and eventually produces seeds of its own. These seeds can then grow into new sunflowers, starting the cycle all over again. All these life cycles happen within ecosystems. An ecosystem is a community of living things, like plants and animals, and their environment. There are many different types of ecosystems, such as forests, oceans, and deserts. Each ecosystem has its own unique set of plants, animals, and other organisms that interact with each other. In a forest ecosystem, for example, trees provide food and shelter for animals like birds, squirrels, and insects. These animals, in turn, help the trees by spreading their seeds and pollinating flowers. Everything in an ecosystem is connected, and each organism plays an important role in keeping the ecosystem healthy.



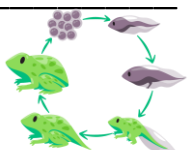
1. What is a life cycle? _____

2. What stages does a butterfly go through in its life cycle? _____

3. What stages does a sunflower go through in its life cycle? _____

4. What is an ecosystem? _____

5. Why is it important to protect ecosystems? _____



1.What is a life cycle? A life cycle is the series of stages that an organism goes through from the beginning of its life to the end.

2.What stages does a butterfly go through in its life cycle? A butterfly goes through the stages of egg, caterpillar, pupa (chrysalis), and adult butterfly.

3.What stages does a sunflower go through in its life cycle? A sunflower goes through the stages of seed, seedling, tall plant, flower, and then produces seeds.

4.What is an ecosystem? An ecosystem is a community of living things, like plants and animals, and their environment.

5.Why is it important to protect ecosystems? It is important to protect ecosystems to ensure that all living things can continue their life cycles and thrive, maintaining a healthy and balanced environment.