

Maturity & Reproduction

Fledgling Cliffs with Hatchling

Learning target

Explain how reproduction connects one generation to the next.



Before you begin

Use the reference page and discussion prompts on their own, or open the optional browser adventure. No earlier lesson or physical kit is required.

For online play: use an internet-connected current browser with local storage enabled. Read the three-part Gemling briefing, answer the quick check, and apply the evidence at three checkpoints. Retry feedback supports review; results are not a secure test or gradebook.

Use for teacher-led review, science centers or partner practice. Independent readers may need support with the vocabulary below. The design target is grades 3-5; choose support based on the learner.

Vocabulary and concepts to discuss

Adult stages; producing offspring; care of young; continuing a population

Open Fledgling Cliffs - direct lesson link

Scan the QR code or use the clickable link. This guide is usable offline; the adventure runs on an external educational website.



Maturity & Reproduction - key ideas

1. The first clues

Maturity includes the stage when an organism can reproduce. Growing larger is an individual's change; producing offspring begins a new generation.

2. How the clues connect

Care of young varies among organisms. Some adults feed and protect young, while others do not provide the same care.

3. Our evidence record

Our bird record follows a chick growing into an adult, then that adult producing offspring. The later chicks are new individuals, not the adult becoming young again.

Keep the science accurate

A life cycle continues through generations, not an individual returning from death. Complete/incomplete metamorphosis labels apply to insect comparisons here.

Apply the evidence

Use a specific observation from this lesson to explain one choice. Point to a clue, then connect that clue to a scientific idea.

Curriculum reference: <https://www.nextgenscience.org/dci-arrangement/3-Is1-molecules-organisms-structures-and-processes>

Talk through the evidence

1. Which event begins a new generation?

Expected answer: Producing offspring

Reasoning: Maturity includes the stage when an organism can reproduce. Growing larger is an individual's change; producing offspring begins a new generation.

2. What does maturity allow in the model?

Expected answer: Reproduction

Reasoning: Maturity includes the stage when an organism can reproduce. Growing larger is an individual's change; producing offspring begins a new generation.

3. Is care of young universal in one form?

Expected answer: No

Reasoning: Care of young varies among organisms. Some adults feed and protect young, while others do not provide the same care.

4. Who are the later chicks?

Expected answer: New individuals

Reasoning: Our bird record follows a chick growing into an adult, then that adult producing offspring. The later chicks are new individuals, not the adult becoming young again.

Guide the discussion

Ask learners to name the evidence that supports their answer. If an answer differs, revisit the matching key idea on page 2 and invite a revised explanation.

Online rewards: this lesson grants one fixed digital Expedition Discovery. Five saved digital Gemling friends become available only after all six distinct subject lessons are complete, in any order. Digital rewards do not establish physical ownership.