

Three Stages of Life

A hen lays an egg. The egg hatches. A chick is born! The chick grows 15
 into a hen. One day she lays an egg. That egg hatches into a chick. Can 31
 you guess what happens to the chick? She grows up and lays an egg. 45
 The same thing happens over and over again. We call this a cycle. All 59
 birds have a three-step cycle in their lives. They start as eggs, hatch into 74
 babies, and then grow up and lay their own eggs. Other animals have 87
 similar life cycles. Have you seen a frog? Frogs start out as eggs, too. 101
 But they don't hatch into chicks! Instead a frog hatches into a tadpole. 114
 Slowly the tadpole loses its tail. It grows legs and hops out of the water. 129
 Now it is a grown-up frog and will lay eggs of its own. The three stages in 147
 a frog life-cycle are: egg, tadpole, and frog. With people, the three 160
 steps are a little different. That's because people don't hatch. They are 172
 born alive. Everyone starts out as a baby. Babies grow into children and 185
 then teenagers. When they become adults they can have children of 196
 their own. That's how the cycle continues. 203

	day 1	day 2	day 3	day 4
words read in 1 minute				
– number of mistakes				
= total words read correctly				
adult initials				

Parent Tips

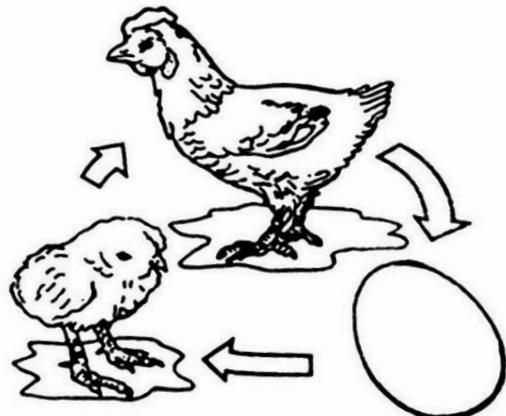
Fluent reading is much more than just fast reading. A fluent reader reads at a good rate with proper pauses. Intonation should change if the reader is reading a question or exclamation. Notice how your student reads the questions in this article. Does her voice change to match the different sentence types?

1. Something that happens again and again is called a _____.

- cycle
- hatching
- baby

2. What hatches out of a hen's egg?

- a frog
- a chick
- a worm



3. What is the main idea of this passage?

- Chickens and other animals lay eggs.
- A grown-up frog was once a tadpole.
- People and animals go through different stages in their lives.

4. What do you think the stages are in a butterfly's life cycle?