

Name: _____

Animal Life Cycles

Directions: Write *Complete* or *Incomplete* under the correct animals.

Animals are born and grow to be adults, just like us. Some animals hatch from eggs, and some animals are born alive. Animals such as many insects, and amphibians go through a life cycle called Complete Metamorphosis. Many other animals, such as mammals, birds, and reptiles, and some insects, go through a cycle called Incomplete Metamorphosis.

Complete Metamorphosis: An animal that goes through a complete metamorphosis starts as an egg and hatches as a larva. The larval stage looks very different from the adult. After the larval stage, a pupal stage occurs, where the larva creates a cocoon of some sort and transforms itself into an adult.

Incomplete Metamorphosis: An animal that goes through an incomplete metamorphosis may also hatch from an egg, however, the young that emerges looks somewhat more like the adult. This stage is called the nymph stage. No pupal stage occurs as the animal transitions to adulthood, but some animals, especially reptiles and insects, will shed skins and exoskeletons as their bodies get bigger.

