

Read the Animal Fact Cards. Choose one animal to write a book about. Your book should clearly explain the life cycle of your chosen animal to younger children. Use the subheadings and Word Bank to help you plan your work.

By: _____	
Title: _____	Fascinating Facts:
<u>Where does it live?</u>	<u>How does it breed?</u>
<u>What does it eat?</u>	<u>How do the offspring survive and grow?</u>

Word Bank
life cycle reproduce grow mate predator prey breed adult offspring pregnant

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<p>_____ by:</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 200px; width: 100%;"></div>	
<p>_____ Title:</p>	

Word Bank
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Read the Animal Fact Cards. Choose one animal to write a book about. Your book should clearly explain the life cycle of your chosen animal to younger children. Plan your work on scrap paper or a mini-whiteboard before starting to draw and write your book.

Front

Back

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Atlantic puffin

- Lives along coastlines around the Atlantic ocean
- Its webbed feet help it swim on the surface of the water, and its dense feathers trap air, keeping it warm
- Puffins eat fish and occasionally shrimps; they dive under the surface of the sea, where they can stay submerged for over a minute while they hunt for fish
- Young puffins take 3-5 years to reach breeding age. During this time they remain at sea
- Once old enough, puffins return to the clifftop breeding grounds where they were raised to find a mate
- Puffins mate for life, returning to the same burrow each year to mate with the same partner
- The single egg hatches after around 40 days; the parents fish for food for their offspring until it is old enough to leave the nest (after around 40-50 days)



Red lionfish

- Lives in coral reefs in the Indian ocean and parts of the Pacific
- Has very few predators due to the venomous spines covering its body
- It hunts for food by cornering small fish and swallowing them whole
- Lionfish reach breeding age very quickly and live up to 10 years
- The females releases her eggs into the water, where they are fertilised by the male
- The fertilised eggs float to the surface of the water, where they hatch after a few days
- The new-born lionfish larvae quickly spread out once hatched; they feed on other tiny fish and organisms
- The adult lionfish lives a solitary life, hunting and living alone; they only interact with others during breeding



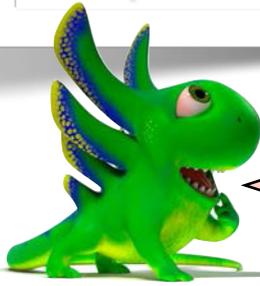
European otter

- Lives in freshwater streams, rivers, lakes and ponds
- Found across Britain and Europe
- Webbed feet and strong tail for swimming
- Fur traps air around body to keep it warm
- Mainly eats fish, but will eat birds, frogs and insects in winter when it is harder to find fish
- Otters will breed at any time of year; female otters are ready to breed when they are around 18 months old
- The female gives birth to 1-4 live young in her riverbank burrow after roughly 2 months gestation
- The young pups are dependent on their mother to feed and protect them
- The pups stay near the burrow, being cared for by their mother until they are around 13 months old



Dragonfly

- Found in wetlands and near lakes and ponds around the world
- Their four wings make them amazing fliers; they can hover and move in any direction!
- They hunt for midges, mosquitos, ants, wasps, flies and other small insects
- Male and female dragonflies mate in the air or on leaves and branches; the female then lays her eggs on floating leaves or plants
- The dragonfly larvae hatch into the water, where they will hunt the larvae of other insects swimming in the water; they will even attack much larger tadpoles and fish!
- Depending on the species, dragonfly larvae will live in the water for up to five years. When ready, they climb out of the water, shed their skin, unfold their wings and fly!
- Adult dragonflies only live for around 5-6 months and will breed several times during this period



Do you have a class pet, or an animal kept at school? You could write a class information book about its life cycle! Here are some ideas of things you could include...

Photographs, drawings or paintings

Labelled diagrams

Measurements of the animal (be careful!)

A log of data collected by observing the animal (how much does it eat, how often, when does it sleep etc.)

Facts and information from books, CD ROMs and the internet

Flow charts or diagrams to show its life cycle

Descriptions of how it reproduces and grows

Information about where it lives. Does it have a nest or burrow? Where does it sleep? Where does it raise its offspring?

Compare its life cycle to that of another animal

Got some more ideas? Make a note of them here: