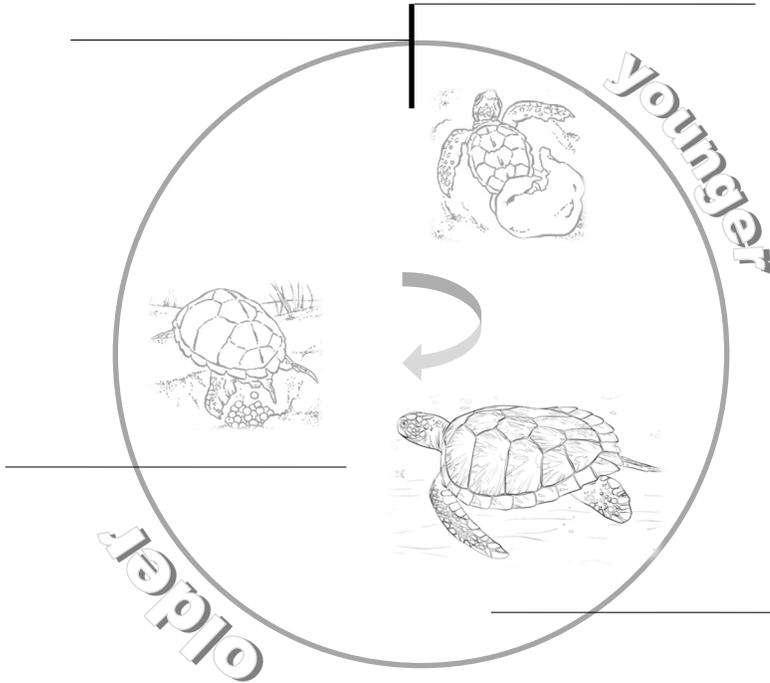


# Aquarium Life Cycles

A **Life Cycle** is a series of stages through which something passes during its lifetime.

Write the life cycle stage that matches each blank line below.



**Birth**— Loggerhead Sea Turtles— called hatchlings

- hatch from eggs
- an average of 120 eggs in a nest

Sand Tiger Sharks— called pups

- live birth
- 2 pups born at the same time ★

Moon Jellies— called planula

- begin as eggs
- a female releases thousands of eggs

Find a matching star for a cool fact about sand tiger shark pups.

**Growth**— Most animals just get larger as they grow.

Some go through a complete transformation in appearance and function called **metamorphosis**. Moon jellies go through metamorphosis in their life cycle. **Can you name any other animals that go through metamorphosis?**

**Reproduction**— the production of offspring/babies/young

**Death**— the end of a life cycle.

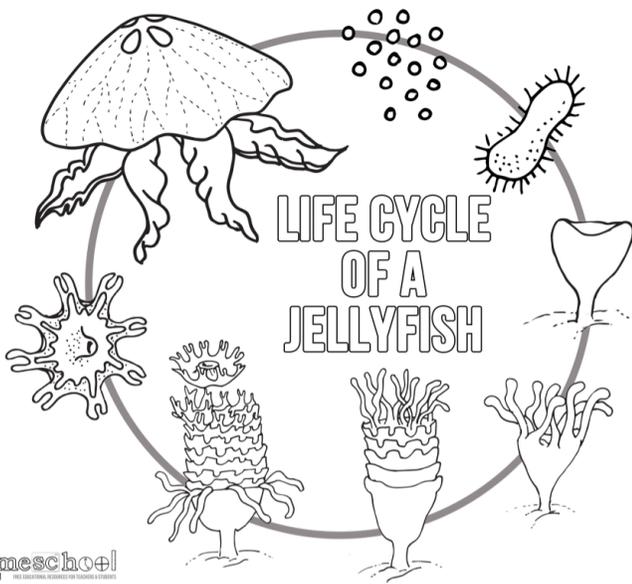
When a parent animal has a baby, the baby is a new generation in that family.

You can imagine a family like a coil or spring. Every circle is a generation connected to its parent. Each generation goes through a life cycle that begins (birth) and ends (death). As long as each generation is able to reproduce, the family will live for many generations.

What happens when reproduction stops?

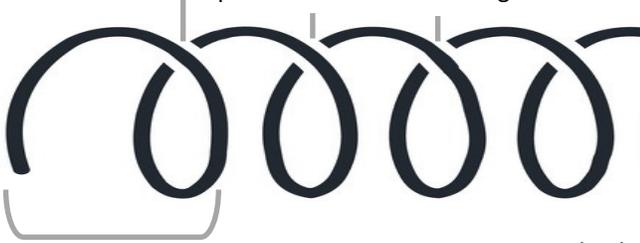
For some species that are declining in numbers (they are endangered), there are fewer individuals to create new generations. When there are no new generations of a species, the species will become **extinct**.

The work of the NC Aquariums is to try to prevent **extinction**. We educate visitors about how special and unique animals are. We **propagate** (breed and raise) some animals that either are declining in the wild or because we don't want to take those animals from the wild. And we encourage our visitors to think about how their own actions might affect other animals.



Homeschool  
CLIPART.COM

Reproduction creates a new generation



1 life cycle = 1 generation

extinction

Of the animals that are propagated at the Aquarium, some are raised for our visitors to see in our beautiful habitats. Others, like brine shrimp, are propagated as food for animals in our care. Can you find 3 animals that are propagated at the Aquarium in the word search list below?



## Did you know?

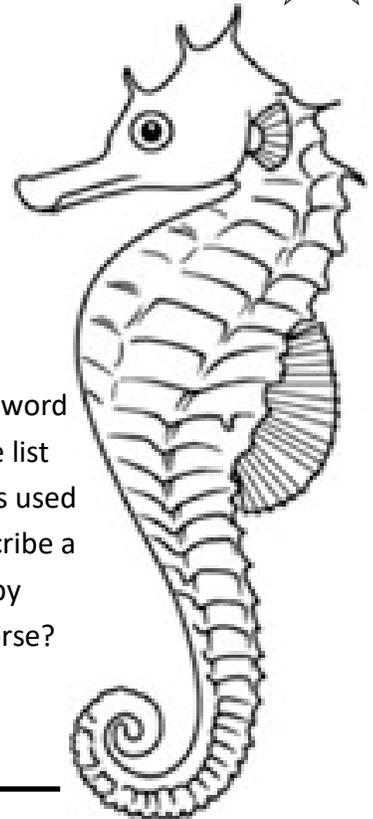
A sand tiger may have up to 30 eggs, but the first pups that hatch in their mother's womb will grow and develop by eating their smaller siblings and any unhatched eggs.



## Aquarium Life Cycles Word Search

R	M	E	T	A	M	O	R	P	H	O	S	I	S
C	R	S	S	E	A	H	O	R	S	E	S	R	X
R	L	Y	L	L	I	F	E	C	Y	C	L	E	E
N	G	R	O	W	T	H	V	U	C	T	E	E	L
O	E	N	D	A	N	G	E	R	E	D	F	I	I
I	D	S	G	O	R	F	R	E	H	P	O	G	N
T	O	E	N	Y	B	F	G	P	E	A	C	O	E
C	G	Y	A	I	A	N	G	Y	R	F	I	D	V
N	O	R	R	T	P	D	E	A	U	P	U	P	U
I	S	T	I	Y	H	S	U	S	O	G	R	H	J
T	H	M	O	O	N	J	E	L	L	Y	I	E	P
X	A	L	U	N	A	L	P	N	T	D	S	I	P
E	P	R	O	P	A	G	A	T	E	E	S	T	T
S	O	P	Y	O	U	N	G	Y	L	I	M	A	F

PUP  
SEAHORSES  
GOPHER FROGS  
PROPAGATE  
EGG  
ADULT  
JUVENILE  
METAMORPHOSIS  
EXTINCTION  
YOUNG  
DEATH  
FRY  
BIRTH  
ENDANGERED  
LIFE CYCLE  
PLANULA  
GROWTH  
MOON JELLY  
FAMILY



Which word in the list above is used to describe a baby seahorse?

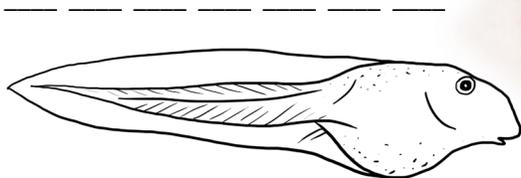
Seahorses reproduce in a very unique way. A male seahorse has a special pouch on his abdomen (belly) that a female will put her eggs into. When the eggs have hatched, the male will give birth to hundreds of baby seahorses.

A baby seahorse measures half of a centimeter (cm).

Measure the length of a seahorse baby on the ruler to the right.



In the life cycle of an **amphibian** like the Gopher Frog in the picture to the right, what is the baby or juvenile called?



For more information and activities related to life cycles and animals that the NC Aquarium at Fort Fisher is working to protect, please visit our Fort Fisher YouTube Channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/user/NCAquariumFortFisher>

The three propagated animals in the word search list above are: moon jelly (ies), seahorses, and gopher frogs.