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# Life and its cycles

## Pre-reading question

What do you want to be when you grow up?

New words

**Earth** – Earth is the planet we live on.

**Attract** – Flowers attract bees because that's where they get nectar to eat.

**Tadpoles** – Tadpoles are baby frogs.

**Hatch** – “I hatch out of an egg,” said the chicken.

**Transformation** – I see a lot of transformation in nature – for example, seeds becomes flowers.

Every human being on earth grows and changes. Did you know that just like you and me, everything in nature grows and changes too? Let us look at some of the life cycles we see in nature.



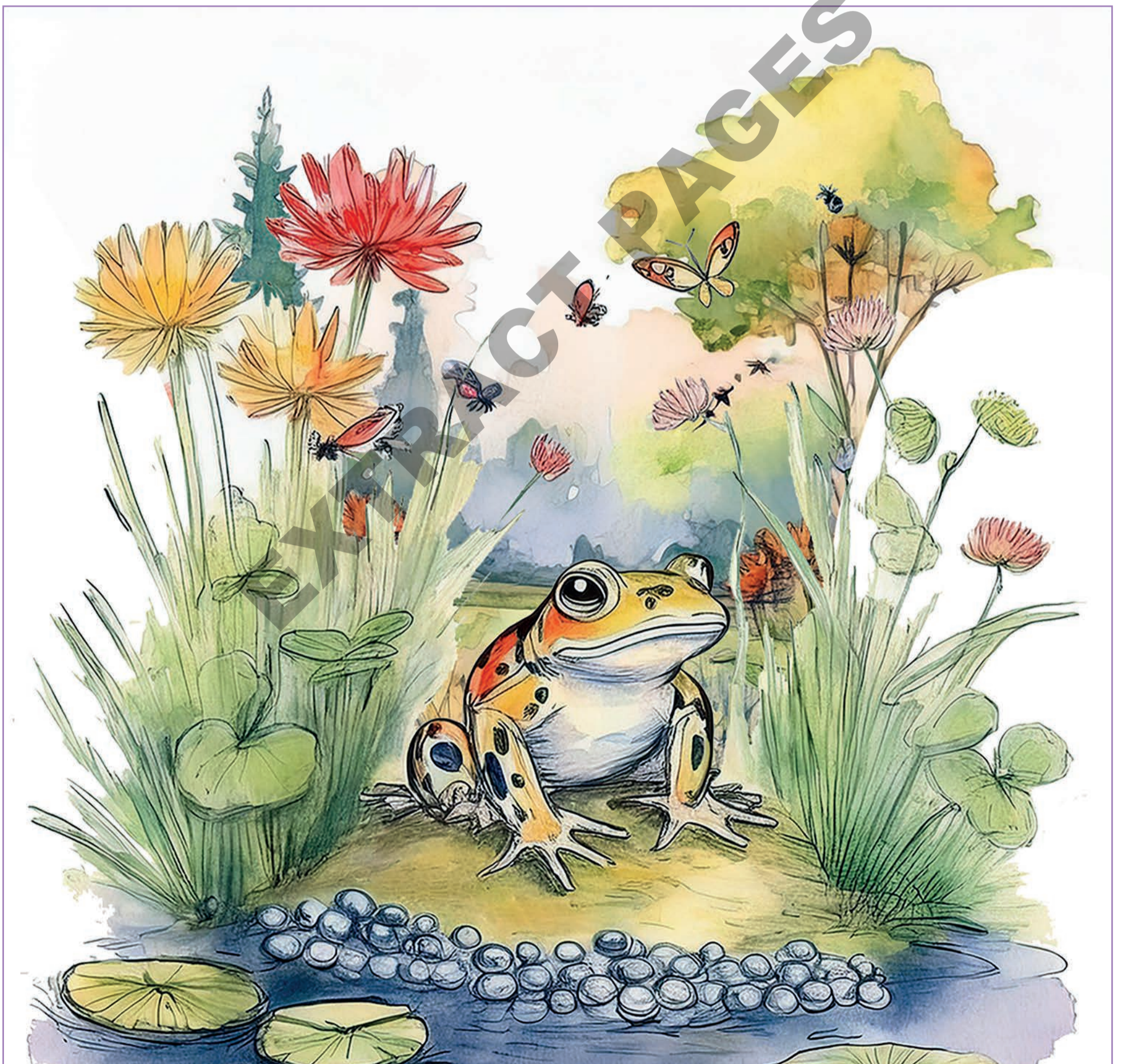
A tiny seed lies in the soil and looks around. It wonders when it will be as big and beautiful as the other flowers. The seed knows that for now it must just wait. At the right time, it will grow and flower.



The rain begins to fall, and the sun shines brightly in the sky. “It is time!” screams the seed, “this is exactly what I need to grow.” The happy seed stretches and moves as its roots grow deep into the soil. Green shoots grow out of the soil and reach for the sky.



Day by day the seed begins to grow. Soon this little flower will attract bees and butterflies. In a nearby pond a mama frog lays her eggs. “I cannot wait to meet you all, but I know that for now I must just wait.”



Soon the eggs begin to wiggle and move. As they hatch, tiny tadpoles with long tails begin to swim about the pond. Do you know that tadpoles are baby frogs? As they grow bigger and bigger their tails shrink, and they start to look more like frogs.



A caterpillar in the tree munches on green leaves. “I cannot wait to be beautiful and colourful like my friends, but for now I must just wait.” The caterpillar spins a cocoon around itself and sits inside for a long time. While inside the cocoon, the caterpillar starts to change. What do you think happens next?



The caterpillar's cocoon starts to open, and out comes a beautiful butterfly. The butterfly spreads her colourful wings and flutters off. She flies above a mother hen standing near her eggs. “When will they hatch?” she asks. “I don’t know,” clucks the hen, “but I know that for now I must just wait.”



Mother hen sits patiently on her eggs. She needs to keep them warm. With a tap-tap-tap, one of the eggs cracks and a tiny beak pops out. Soon all the eggs are hatched. The chicks cannot wait to explore this new world with their mother.



“Just wait,” said the big and beautiful flower that once was a seed.

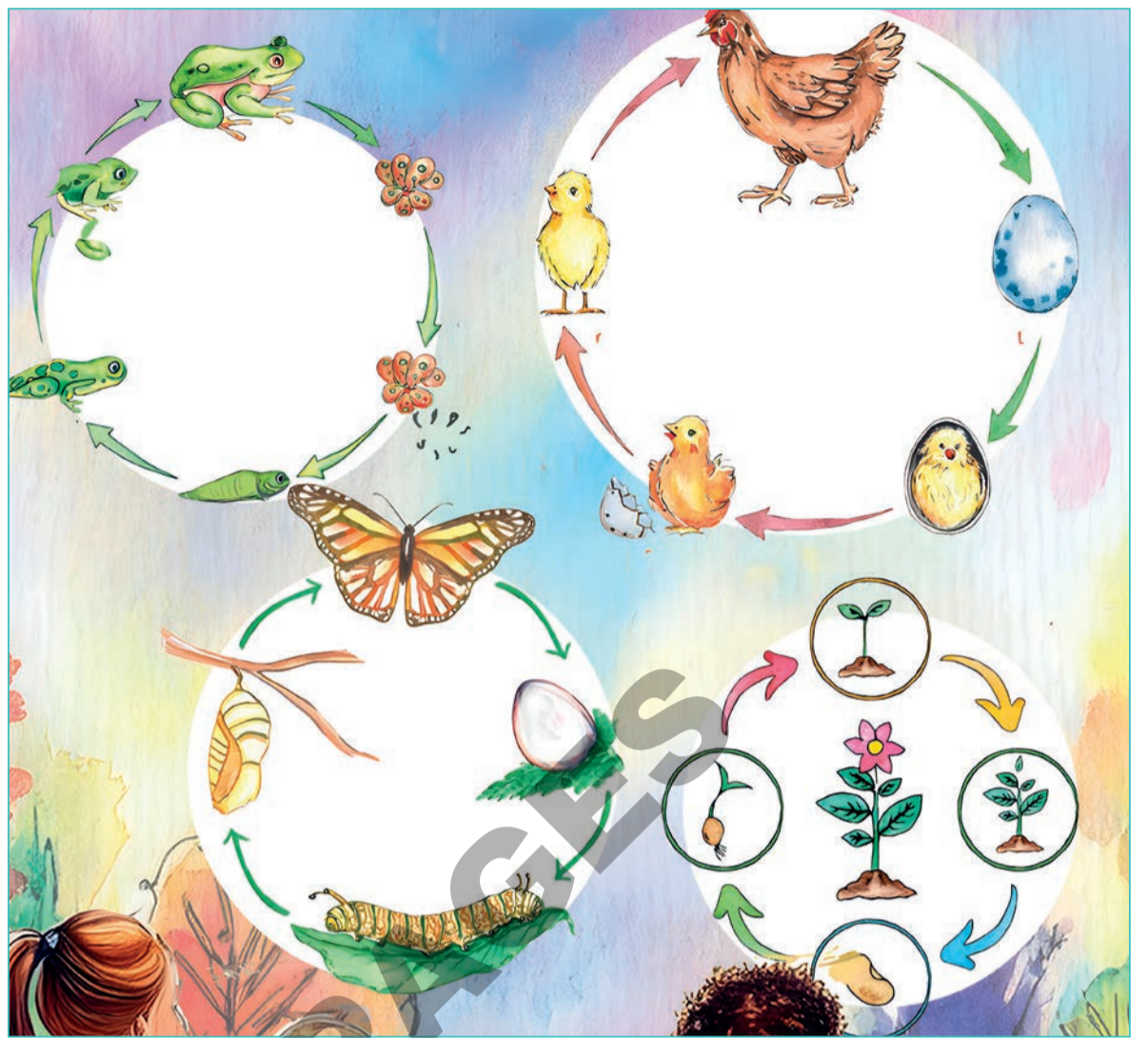
“Just wait,” said the frog that once was a tadpole and is now jumping all over the pond.

“Just wait,” said the big and beautiful butterfly that once was a caterpillar.

“Just wait,” said the mother hen with her chicks chirping behind her.



Like the seed that grew into a beautiful flower, the tadpole that is now a frog, the caterpillar that emerged a colourful butterfly and the eggs that hatched the cutest chicks – everything in nature grows and changes. Life is full of wonderful transformations! What will you grow up to be?



### Post-reading questions

1. Explain how the seed in the story changed and what it grew into.
2. Which two animals start their life cycle in eggs?
3. Work with a partner. Choose one of the life cycles from the story and summarise it for your partner. Explain it to your partners in a short and quick way.