

**Suggested Pre-Field Trip Activities
for Animal Life Cycles at Wood Lake Nature Center**

Vocabulary

- **Life Cycle**
- **Decompose**
- **Reproduce**

*Review vocabulary.

*Hold up a variety of animal and plant pictures. Talk about how both animals and plants will change throughout its life from beginning to end. If you have animal pictures with all stages, have students work in groups to put them in the right order (i.e. egg, tadpole, frog, decompose).

*Plant bean or sunflower seeds in a clear container and watch the plant change through the different life stages.

*Discuss with students how they change throughout their own human life cycle (use pictures to illustrate changes).

*Discuss the importance of keeping life cycles going especially with endangered species.

*Ask students what would happen if animals such as Polar Bears, Siberian Tigers, and rare orchids didn't have babies (or produce seeds).

**Suggested Post-Field Trip Activities
for Animal Life Cycles at Wood Lake Nature Center**

*Review vocabulary.

*Have students find something dead and decomposing outside their school (i.e. leaf and twig). Have students draw a picture of what it may look like a month from now, next season, and next year.

*Give each student a picture of an animal or plant and have them draw its life cycle (i.e. bird, snake, fox, ant, tree).

*Have students write or tell a story about their favorite animal's life cycle.

*Acquire tadpoles or butterfly larvae. Have students journal by writing and/or drawing the many changes they observe.

*Discuss with students the importance of death and/or decomposition to other species' life cycles (i.e. food for another animal, return of nutrients to the soil for new plants to grow).