



Comparing Adult to Offspring

Habitat lab Field Journal Activity Lesson Plans & Resources

Online Lesson Plans & Resources: <https://www.alabamawildlife.org/oc-activity-comparing-adult-to-offspring/>

Students will explore the habitat lab to find and observe an animal, identify it, determine if it is an adult or offspring, and then compare and contrast the adult and offspring of the species.

Example Discussion Questions & Answers (online as an Interactive PowerPoint or PDF)

Q: When a human baby is born, does the baby look like an exact copy of the parents?

A: *Although some babies look a lot like their parents, they are not exact copies of their parents.*

Q: How do children look similar or different to their parents? *(Keep in mind that some children are adopted or live with guardians, and they may not look like the people who they call their parents.)*

A: *Every human child and adult has two legs, two arms and other similar body parts. However, some things can be different or the same as their parents such as hair color, eye color, height and other genetically determined traits.*

Q: What are other examples of animals that look similar as offspring and adults?

A: *Rabbits, songbirds, turtles and fish.*

Q: Which animals look different as offspring and adults?

A: *Caterpillars and butterflies, tadpoles and frogs, nymphs and dragonflies.*

Q: Are all animals born the same way?

A: *No, some animals hatch from an egg like birds, snakes, and fish. Other animals have “live birth” such as humans, fox, squirrels, rabbits and most other “furry” creatures.*

Q: Do all animals live the same amount of time? Do they have the same “lifespan”?

A: *No, most humans live to be 70-80 years old, while dogs only live to be 10-12 years old and cats live to be 13-18 years old. Bullfrogs have a lifespan of approximately 7-9 years, hummingbirds live around 3-5 years, and butterflies live from 6 weeks to 1 year.*

Q: Do animals grow into adults the same way? How are the life cycles of different animals alike and different?

A: *Different types of animals (or species) go through different stages of growth to become adults. Some animals just grow larger, while other animals like a butterfly or frog go through multiple stage of growth. However, the goal of all animals’ lives are the same—they want to grow, develop, and then reproduce before they die.*

Q: What animals do you think we can find living in the habitat lab? Will they be adults or offspring?

A: *Answers will vary. Students may name ants, birds, butterflies, lizards, spiders, squirrels & other critters.*

