



Baby Animals

Biological Sciences



Written for the Australian Curriculum: Science

Sienna Osborne | Randall Hall | Richard John

AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM: SCIENCE

Strand:	Science Understanding
Sub-strand:	Biological Sciences
Descriptor:	Living things grow, change and have offspring similar to themselves

SCIENCE WORDS

Baby, animals, parents, crocodile, turtle, echidna, puggle, spines, pouch, butterfly, caterpillar, chrysalis, frog, tadpole, breathe, lungs, emu, chick, feathers, ladybug, nymph, pupa

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS OR CAREGIVER

Helping your child learn to read is a rewarding and enjoyable experience for both you and your child. Here are some ways you can help your child with their reading.

BEFORE READING

- Introduce the book; read the title and look at the pictures. Ask your child if they know of any baby animals.
- Refer to the science words above. Discuss each word and its meaning. These words will appear in the book.

DURING READING

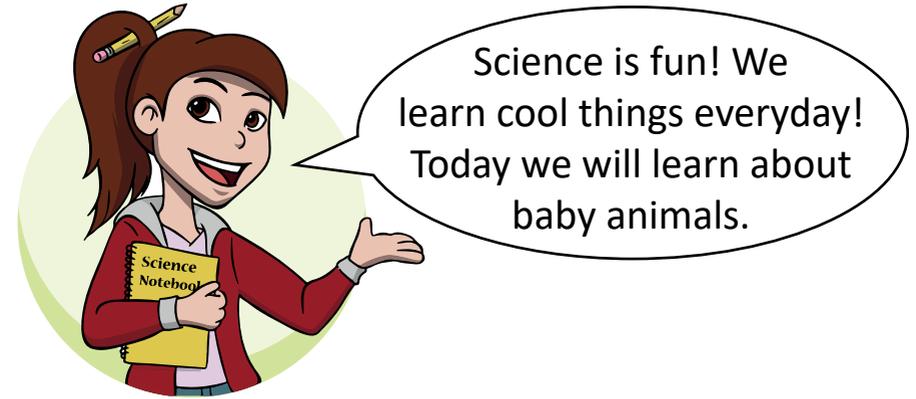
- At this level, your child should attempt to read their home reader on their own. There may be words they are unsure of. Encourage them to break these words down into their individual sounds, blending them from left to right.
- Stop your child on the pages where Suzie the Scientist appears. Discuss the science vocabulary and interesting information presented.

SCIENCE CONCEPTS IN THIS BOOK

As part of the *Australian Curriculum: Science* students learn to distinguish living things from non-living things. Some characteristics of living things include the ability to move, grow, breathe, eat and reproduce.

When they reproduce, adult animals have offspring that end up looking similar to themselves. However, while animals eventually grow up to resemble their parents, some baby animals look nothing like their parents. This book has some interesting examples of this—e.g. a caterpillar looks nothing like a butterfly and a tadpole looks nothing like a frog.

In science, students often engage with counter-intuitive ideas or images. The cognitive dissonance students feel can be a driver of further curiosity about that particular topic or concept. This is one of the reasons the life-cycles of butterflies and frogs are so engaging for children. As facilitators of student learning we should take advantage of counter-intuitive ideas to encourage an interest for further learning.



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Some baby animals look like their parents.

A baby crocodile looks like an adult crocodile.

A baby turtle looks like an adult turtle.

And baby cats and dogs look like grown up cats and dogs.



Crocodile hatchling



Puppies and kittens



Turtle hatchling



Baby animals have special names. Baby turtles and baby crocodiles are called hatchlings. Baby cats are called kittens and baby dogs are called pups.

Some baby animals look nothing like their parents.

These babies go through lots of changes as they grow up.

And when they have grown up, they end up looking like their parents.



Puggle



Nymph



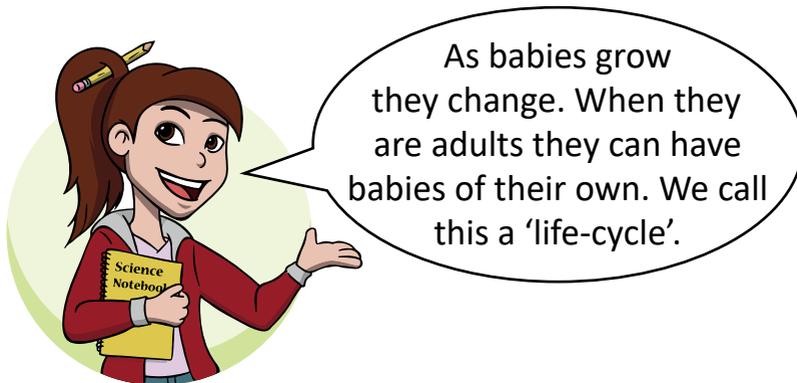
Caterpillar



Chick

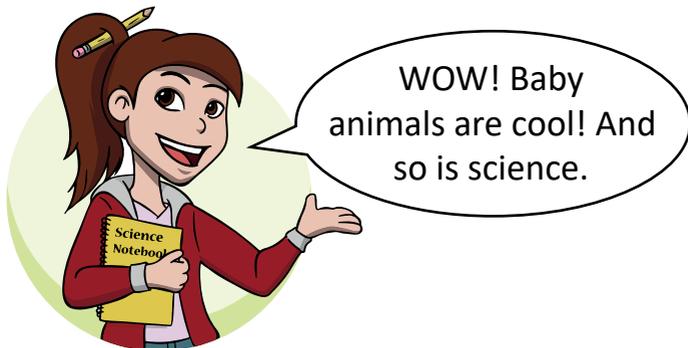


Tadpole



As babies grow they change. When they are adults they can have babies of their own. We call this a 'life-cycle'.

Baby animals change and grow up to look like their parents.



AFTER READING

Ask your child what the book was about and encourage them to re-tell it in the order in which it appeared.

Discuss the following with your child to assist in understanding the content of the book:

- What is a baby echidna called?
- What is different between a tadpole and a frog?
- Why do you think baby turtles and baby crocodiles are called 'hatchlings'?
- What is your favourite baby animal?

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In this book Suzie the Scientist helps us learn about baby animals. We learn that some baby animals look like their parents while others look nothing like their parents. Suzie also shows us how all baby animals eventually grow up to look like their parents.

Australian Curriculum: All books in the 'Suzie the Scientist' series are written for the *Australian Curriculum: Science* and align directly to what children learn in the classroom. This book addresses the learning outcome "Living things grow, change and have offspring similar to themselves" from the Biological Sciences sub-strand.



WOW!
Baby animals
are cool! And so is
science.

PARENTS, READ ALONG WITH SUZIE!

*Throughout this book Suzie the Scientist tells us interesting scientific facts. Use these pages to encourage further interest and discussion about **baby animals** with your child.*

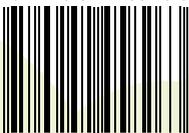
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