

Preparing for the Unit

1. Curiosity Centre

The Curiosity Centre gives students an opportunity to investigate science ideas and tools through active participation, free exploration, and independent play. In this hands-on centre, students can explore objects related to animal growth and changes.

The Curiosity Centre could have

- class pets such as fish, guinea pigs, rabbits, rats, turtles, gerbils, or lizards
- bug boxes, viewing glasses, empty terrariums and aquariums, fish bowls, and magnification tools
- items relating to different stages of animal life cycles, such as the molted exoskeleton of a dragonfly or other insect, eggshells from a bird egg, mounted specimens of insects at various stages
- items relating to different stages of human development, including baby-related items such as toys, diapers, and bottles; or devices used by elderly people
- access to live-feed video showing animal life cycles
- images depicting a variety of life cycles
- toy models of a variety of animals
- student photos, perhaps taken against a wall height chart
- a mirror for students to examine their own facial traits
- copies of Canada's food guide
- cookbooks; restaurant menus; grocery flyers; plastic food toys; food magazines; dried foods such as beans, rice, and pasta in sealed containers; a variety of canned goods

Check the centre frequently to ensure it is well stocked with items. Invite students to contribute to the centre by bringing in items or images related to animal life cycles.

Note: You may choose to display new items every few days or introduce items one at a time throughout the unit.

2. Science Journals and Folders



Check that students are recording appropriately in their Science Journals, ensuring that

they date each entry and record ideas using sketches with labels, lists of words, or sentences. Continue to encourage them to add new questions or ideas to their Journals as often as they like.

Remind students that they should store completed BLMs, drawings, graphs, etc. that are related to the *Animal Growth and Changes* unit in their Science Folders.

3. Word Wall



Continue to add any relevant science terminology to the Word Wall throughout the unit. Urge students to use the terms as often as possible as they work through the unit.

4. I Wonder Wall



Continue to build the I Wonder Wall throughout the unit by posting students' questions as they arise. Refer to the I Wonder Wall often and select questions that students may be ready to answer.

5. Reading Centre

Add texts (books, magazines, and photographs) relating to animal growth and changes (life cycles) to the Reading Centre. Or, you may choose to include these texts in the Curiosity Centre to stimulate discussion and questions. The titles in the Science Library will help start off a collection of books. Also, refer to the lists of texts pertaining to Animal Growth and Changes in the Additional Resources section of this guide (pages 81–83).