Science – Human Life Cycle – Year 5 – Spring 1

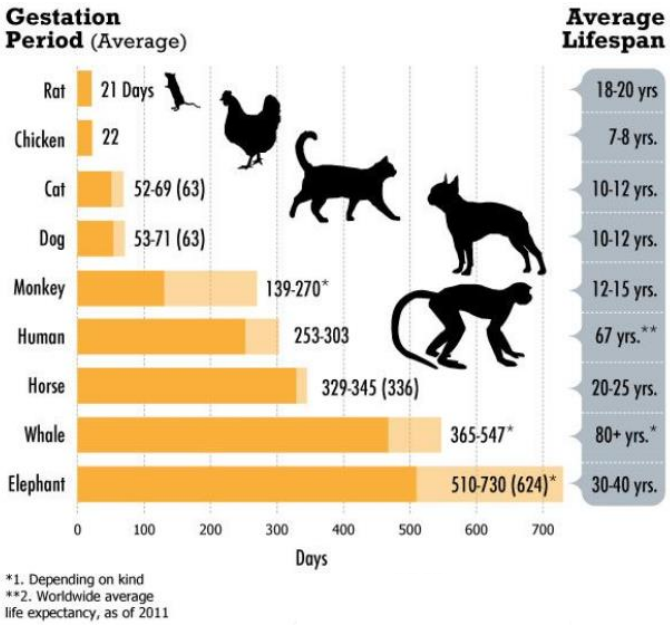
Vocabulary Top Ten:

adolescence	the time when a young person is older than a child but not yet an adult
adulthood	when the human body is fully developed
childhood	the time when you are a child
elderly	the last stage in the life cycle of a human
foetus	a human being in its later stages of development before it is born
gestation	the period of time the foetus spends in the womb
infancy	the time when someone is a baby or a young child (0-2 years)
life cycle	series of changes that occur in the life of an organism
puberty	the period during which adolescents become capable of reproduction
reproduction	the process of producing offspring (child)

Human Life Cycle



Gestation Periods



Key Facts:

Foetus	All humans begin life as a foetus. A foetus grows in the womb surrounded by liquid and gets its nutrition through a tube called the umbilical cord. Doctors can take a photo of a foetus using an ultrasound scanner. For humans, the gestation period is around 9 months.
Infancy (roughly 2 years)	After around nine months of being pregnant a mother gives birth to a baby. Babies cannot do much for themselves and need to be fed and have their nappies changed. Babies drink milk after they are born and they usually start eating solids when their teeth start to appear at about 6 months. Many babies can crawl by 9 months and begin to walk after they are 1 year old. All babies are different and develop at different times.
Childhood	Children are more independent than babies and they continue to become more independent as they get older. Between three and five years old, children start to go to nursery and to school.
Adolescence	During adolescence, humans become more independent (teenagers). They begin puberty ready for reproduction and become ready for adulthood.
Adulthood	During adulthood, the human body is at its physical peak of fitness and strength and are able to be completely independent. This is when most humans reproduce.
Elderly	The body declines in fitness and health from 60 years onwards. This is the elderly/late adult stage. When humans become elderly, there is an increased dependence on others to look after them as time goes on. The life cycle ends when a human dies.