



Comparing Adult to Offspring

Outdoor Classroom Field Journal Activity Lesson Plans & Resources

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

Students will explore the outdoor classroom 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.

Background Information (online as a PDF)

All living things on earth have one thing in common – a life cycle that starts with some type of “birth” and then continues with growth and/or metamorphosis into an adult until the cycle starts over with reproduction.

During the stages of development, these organisms display different inherited traits and use different strategies for survival all with the goal of allowing some of the population to reach adulthood so that they can reproduce and start a new generation.

Some organisms at birth closely resemble the adult of that species except for size, while other organisms go through very unusual changes during their life cycle stages.

A good comparison is looking at our own life cycle where we go from baby to adult over a span of 18 years while insects like a butterfly go through complete metamorphosis from an egg to a caterpillar to a butterfly in a few weeks.

Inherited traits are those things that an offspring directly inherits due to genetics and does not learn from parents.

Even though creatures will resemble their parents when they reach maturity, if not before, they are not exact copies.

