

Science: Animals including Humans

This half term we are starting a new science topic: animals including humans. Today's lesson is about the stages of human development.

For today's lesson, watch the bbc bitesize clip: how do humans change during their lifetime? Here you will learn about the six stages of human development: foetus, baby, childhood, adolescence, adulthood and old age. There are some quiz questions for you to try underneath the clip.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zgssgk7/articles/z2msv4j>

Now read on to find out a bit more information about the stages of human development.

1. Foetus

By eight weeks old, the baby is no longer a bundle of cells. It looks like a tiny person and is called a foetus. The foetus does not eat, drink, or breathe by itself. All its needs are taken care of by its mother. During the nine months of pregnancy, the foetus grows inside its mother's uterus. After around 40 weeks of pregnancy, the mother gives birth. Newborn babies can breathe, suck and swallow. They communicate by crying if they feel hungry or uncomfortable.



2. Baby

Babies' bodies grow very fast, but their brains develop quickly too. Learning to move around and talk are both huge tasks. Children's brains are changing all the time as they learn new skills at an amazing rate. In the first year of life, a baby is completely dependent on his or her parents. However, babies quickly gain control of their muscles, moving from sitting to crawling, standing up, and then walking. By one year, a baby is trying to speak.



Four days >

Six weeks

3. Childhood

As a child you learn to walk and talk, run and jump, go to the toilet alone, eat with cutlery, read and write, and make friends! By the age of 10 a child has grown and changed

proportion dramatically. The brain develops rapidly and makes lots of new connections, enabling children to acquire new skills.



4. Adolescence

The change from being a child to an adult, which happens during the teenage years, is called adolescence. It includes puberty, a period of rapid growth as the body changes shape and the reproductive system develops. During this stage, behaviour alters as teenagers learn to live with less help from their parents and do things for themselves. During puberty both boys and girls get more hair on their bodies. Boys also start to grow hair on their faces and may start to shave.

5. Adulthood

Between the ages of 18 and 20, the body stops growing. In early adulthood you reach peak fitness and fertility (the ability to have children).

6. Old age

As you grow older, your body takes longer to repair itself and replace worn-out cells. This causes ageing, the signs of which are more obvious over the age of 60. Hair thins and turns grey, the skin wrinkles and sight and hearing become less efficient. Muscles become weaker, joints stiffen, and bones may become brittle and break more easily. However, a good diet and regular exercise during adulthood can reduce the effects of ageing.

Your task is to draw a timeline of the stages of human development, and write an explanation for each stage. You can use illustrations (pictures) if you want to.

Use the vocabulary in the box to help you

Lifecycle, timeline, foetus, baby, child, adolescent, adult, old age
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