

Human Life Cycle

There are 6 stages in the human lifecycle:

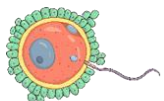
Embryo
Foetus
Baby
Childhood
Adolescence
Young adult
Middle aged adult
Old age

It takes a **foetus** (unborn baby) about 40 weeks to develop inside the womb. During that time the fertilised egg becomes an **embryo**, and then a foetus.

When a baby is born, it is completely helpless, but grows steadily and becomes a more independent child. The child then experiences **puberty**, where they become an **adolescent** who is capable of reproducing themselves. As adults gets older, and enter middle age, they become noticeably weaker. At the end of middle age, females are no longer able to reproduce. The last stage of a human's life is old age, when they are increasingly dependent on support from others.

Key Vocab

Embryo	A newly fertilised egg in the womb
Foetus	An unborn baby that has developed from an embryo
Childhood	the age span ranging from birth to adolescence
Adolescence	The time when a child develops into an adult
Puberty	The time during which adolescents reach sexual maturity and become capable of reproduction.
Hormones	Substances in our blood that influence our mood or behaviour.
Life span	The length of time something lives for
Reproduction	The biological process by which new individual organisms – "offspring" – are produced from their "parents"



Fertilisation of egg.
This becomes an embryo
and then a foetus



Baby
(infancy)



Childhood



Puberty



Early
Adulthood



Middle
Adulthood



Old age

Foetal Growth From 8 to 40 Weeks



Childhood responsibility

When some animals are born, they can already swim or walk. Some are able to find their own food. Some of these animals become adults in a few weeks, and are then able to reproduce and have offspring of their own.

However, when human babies are born they are completely helpless. They are totally dependent on the care of others in order to survive.

As time passes babies start to develop into toddlers and become more powerful. They learn from others, and from their environment, and become more independent. The process continues until the child becomes an **adolescent** and then an adult.

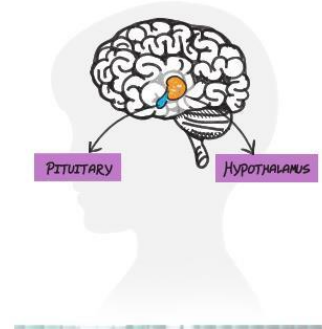
Puberty

Puberty is the stage of development between childhood and adulthood.

Changes happen inside and outside of the body during puberty.

Physical growth occurs so that the body changes to that of an adult which enables reproduction.

Two parts of the brain – the hypothalamus and the pituitary gland start to make more of some **hormones**.



Old Age

Old people can lead very fulfilling lives. They can look back on their achievements and enjoy the relationships with their children and grandchildren. However, as people grow old their bodies and minds start to deteriorate (become weaker). This can make it more difficult for them to perform tasks that they could perform easily when they were younger.

There are several ways that the difficulties of old age can be lessened. There are devices - such as hearing aids, walking frames and mobility scooters - which can help older people live more independently.

We can help older people by visiting them and preventing them from being lonely. We can also explain new technology to them and offer to perform some tasks for them such as going shopping.

Freedom!

