



Y5 Thinking like a scientist

Living things and their habitats

Human Gestation Period (9 months*)

The gestation period is when the **foetus** develops inside the **female**. It is different in all **mammals**.



Some animals give birth to 1 baby – the North American Opossum has between 16 and 20!

- Humans - 9 months
- Elephants – 23 months
- Basking shark – 42 months
- North American Opossum - 12 days

Human Young (0-3years*)

Young mammals (babies) are **dependent** - they:

- need milk
- have poor muscle control
- need lots of sleep
- cannot control toileting



Puppies are born with their eyes closed.

Human babies see light and dark.

Toddlers begin walking between 1-2 years.

Human Adults (21-100 years*)

- Adults are fully grown.
- A dog reaches adulthood at about 2 years.
- Adults reproduce so the whole cycle starts again.



A middle-aged adult



An elderly adult

Key Vocabulary

Offspring	A child or young animal
Foetus	The term for an unborn offspring still within the female mammal's body
Gestation	The period of time an animal is pregnant for
Pregnant	When an animal contains a foetus within the body
Hormones	Chemical messengers produced by the body

Learning Questions

What are the stages in the life cycle of a mammal, and how do they compare to humans?

What is gestation, and how does it vary across different mammals?

How does a foetus grow and develop during pregnancy?

How can we measure growth in children and interpret what the results show?

What changes take place during puberty, and how do they differ for boys and girls?

What happens to humans as they grow older, and how can we stay healthy in old age?

What else do you know?