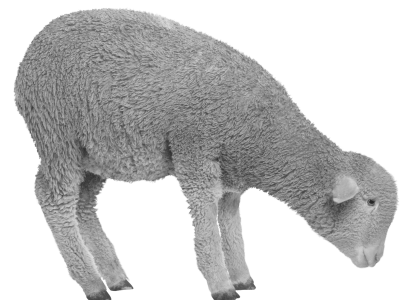
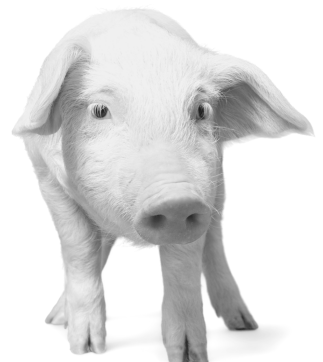
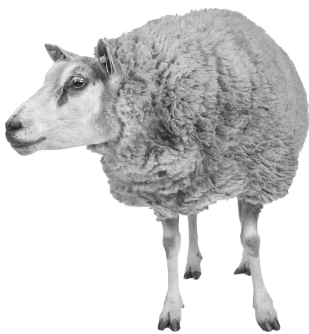


Match Mum to Bub!

Match the animal mother to her offspring by drawing a line that connects them.



Try this! Choose one of these animals and find out how long each stage in its life cycle takes. Draw a chart.



**THINKKIND
AUSTRALIA**

HUMANE EDUCATION RESOURCES

Meet My Mother

Read each passage and then fill in the correct answers.



When I was born, my mum licked me clean straight away. She fed me milk for almost a year so I could grow big and healthy. I follow her around everywhere and don't like to be separated from her. She calls after me and looks for me if I get lost. We'll always have a very close bond, even when I become an adult.

When I was growing inside my egg, my mum sat on me to keep me warm. She clucked to me and I peeped back so I learned her voice early on. When I hatched, I already knew to listen out for her voice and follow it everywhere. She taught me how to find food and water and even let me climb on top of her with my siblings!

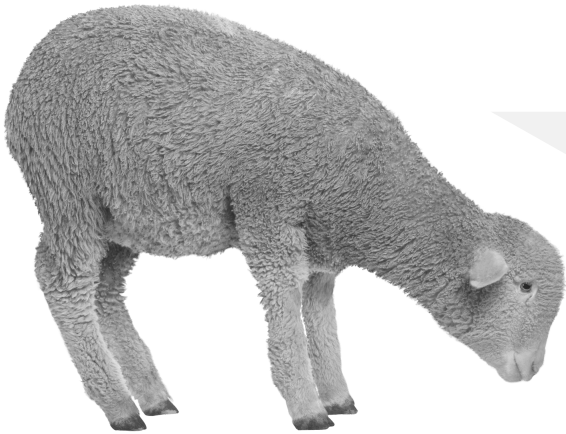


Answer true or false:

1. Hens talk to their chicks before they hatch: _____
2. Cows stop feeding their calf after one month: _____
3. Chicks learn how to find food on their own: _____
4. Calves and chicks follow their mothers after birth: _____

Meet My Mother

Read each passage and then fill in the correct answers.



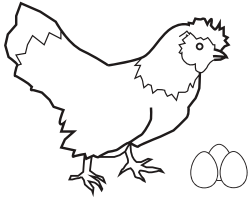
When I was born, my mum licked me clean and helped me stand on my feet. She fed me milk for 12 weeks and kept me safe from predators. When I was weaned, I still followed my mum around everywhere with the rest of the herd. We call out very loudly if we can't see each other, and she gets very worried if she thinks I'm lost.

Right before I was born, my mum built a nest in a safe and quiet place. She walked a long time to find the perfect spot! When my siblings and I were born, we stayed there for two weeks suckling milk until we met the other pigs in our herd. My mum sometimes calls or 'sings' to us to let us know when her milk is coming.

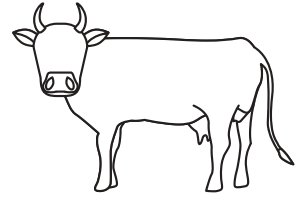


Answer true or false:

5. Pigs and sheep use calls to talk to their babies: _____
6. Mother pigs build their nest away from other pigs: _____
7. Lambs only learn to stand a few weeks after birth: _____
8. Cows, pigs and sheep feed their babies milk: _____



My Life Story



Choose a cow, chicken, sheep or pig and write its life story.

I chose a _____.

First of all I was _____

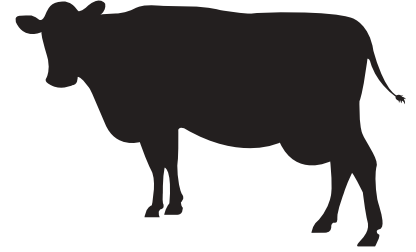
After that _____

Write two things that would be different if you lived on a farm.

Animal Lifecycles

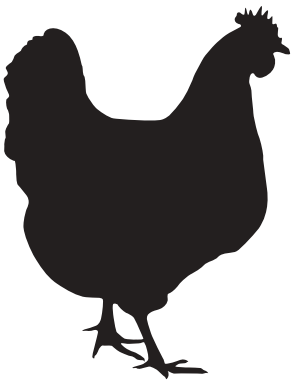
Cows

A female cow mates with a bull (male cow) to produce a calf. Just like a human, she will be pregnant for nine months. Female cows can only produce milk when they are pregnant. It takes several months to a year for a calf to stop suckling milk from its mother (weaning). Cows can give birth from 2 to 3 years old. The natural lifespan of a cow is 20 years.



What about cows raised for milk?

Dairy cows are often impregnated by insemination. Calves are taken away from their mothers within hours of being born. This is to keep the mother's milk for humans to have. Dairy cows usually live for seven years.



Chickens

A female chicken is called a hen. A male chicken is called a rooster. A hen will lay several eggs and keep them warm for 21 days until they hatch. When the chicks are 6 to 8 weeks old, they have all their feathers and don't need to sleep under their mother anymore. Most chickens will be ready to reproduce at 24 weeks. Chickens can live up to 12 years.

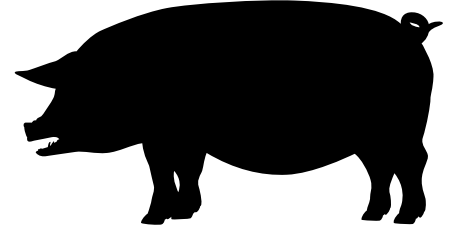
What about hens raised for eggs?

Chickens don't need a rooster to produce eggs, but they do need a rooster to produce chicks. After a hen and rooster have mated, a farmer will collect the eggs and put them into an incubator to keep warm without the mother. When the chicks hatch, the females are raised to become egg-laying hens and the males are discarded. Hens who are raised to lay eggs typically live for around 72 weeks.

Animal Lifecycles

Pigs

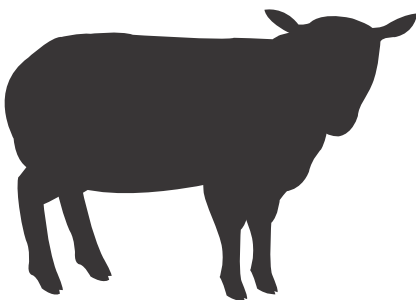
A female pig is called a sow and a male is called a boar. A sow's pregnancy lasts for 16 weeks and they can produce ten piglets in one litter. Sows build nests so they can give birth to their piglets safely. Once born, it can take up to 17 weeks for piglets to be fully weaned. Sows are able to reproduce from six months of age. Pigs can live for 15 to 20 years.



What about pigs raised for meat?

Sows are put into a narrow pen with metal bars called a farrowing stall one week before giving birth. This stops the mother from accidentally crushing her piglets, which sometimes happens because of her big size. She is kept here to suckle her piglets until they are removed from her at 3 to 4 weeks old. The lifespan of a pig raised for meat is 5 to 6 months. Breeding sows are kept for 3 to 5 years.

Sheep



A female sheep is called an ewe and a male is called a ram. Pregnancy lasts around 5 months. Sheep usually give birth to one lamb at a time, but can also have twins and triplets. It takes around 12 weeks for a lamb to be weaned. Most ewes can reproduce at 9 months of age. A sheep's average lifespan is 10 to 12 years.

What about sheep raised for wool and meat?

Farmers who raise sheep for meat and wool do not separate newborn lambs from their mothers. Lambs are allowed to stay with their mothers and suckle until they are naturally weaned. The lifespan of a lamb raised for meat is six to eight months.