

GROWING UP AND GROWING OLD

Core Learning of this unit

- The human life span can be split into a number of stages: **infancy, childhood, adolescence, young adulthood, adulthood** and **old age**. The actual length of these stages varies across different cultures and time periods.
- The amount of time it takes for a baby to develop is called the **gestation period**. In humans this is roughly 9 months (266 days). Smaller animals normally have a shorter gestation period than larger animals. (For example, a mouse's gestation period is around 20 days and an African elephant's is 645 days.)
- Human bodies change as they get older, particularly during adolescence.

Human Life Span



Prior Learning & Curriculum links



Prior learning

- From Year 2: Animals have offspring which grow into adults.
- From Year 3: Skeletal system including joints.

Curriculum Links

- History: Find out about some of the other 'oldest' world records (eg; the oldest person to complete a marathon).
- Geography: evidence of the earliest humans has been found in Ethiopia, Morocco and South Africa.
- Maths: Using tables and graphs to present data.
- Eco/ PSHCE Links: SRE; Identifying the right to keep our body private.

Working Scientifically



- Work scientifically by researching the gestation periods of other animals and comparing them with humans; by finding out and recording the length and mass of a baby as it grows.

Vocabulary



- Pregnant:** the condition of a female animal when there is a baby growing inside her womb.
- Gestation period:** the amount of time that a baby spends inside its mother's womb before it is born.
- Adolescence:** the time in a young person's life when physical and emotional changes leading to adulthood are happening.
- Puberty:** the first part of adolescence, when physical changes begin to happen to the body.
- Menstruation:** A monthly cycle in women. Each month an egg is released, and if it is not fertilised by a sperm, the female has her period.
- Arthritis:** a disease that causes joints to become swollen and painful.
- Life expectancy:** how many years humans are expected to live. This changes and has lengthened over time.



Significant People

The oldest person ever whose age has been verified is the contested case of **Jeanne Calment** (1875–1997) of France, who died at the age of 122 years. The oldest living person in the world is 116-year-old **Kane Tanaka** from Japan.

