

# LIFE CYCLES

Animals give birth to young in a variety of ways.

Animals that lay eggs are called **Oviparous**. Out of all the animals on earth, over 90% lay eggs.

It's a pretty useful way to have young!



While many lizards lay eggs, some like the Shingleback Lizard, do not. They give birth to live young!

**Mammals** also give birth to live young. However, mammals like the Koala give birth to a very under developed joey who needs to move into the pouch to grow.

We call these animals **Marsupials**.



The other type of mammal is called a **Placental Mammal**. Their young are ready to be in the world at birth, but still need a lot of care. Just like Seal pups and human babies!

Research animals that have babies in these 3 ways



Oviparous

Marsupials

Placental mammals

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## MAJOR MITCHELL'S COCKATOO LIFE CYCLE



A mother and father have a lifelong bond. They need a large hollow in a tree to build a nest and will come back to the same one every year.



The mother will lay 2-3 eggs and both the mother and father incubate them (keep warm).



After 30 days, the eggs hatch and the chicks are bald and vulnerable. Both the mother and father will feed the chicks as they grow in the nest for 8 weeks.



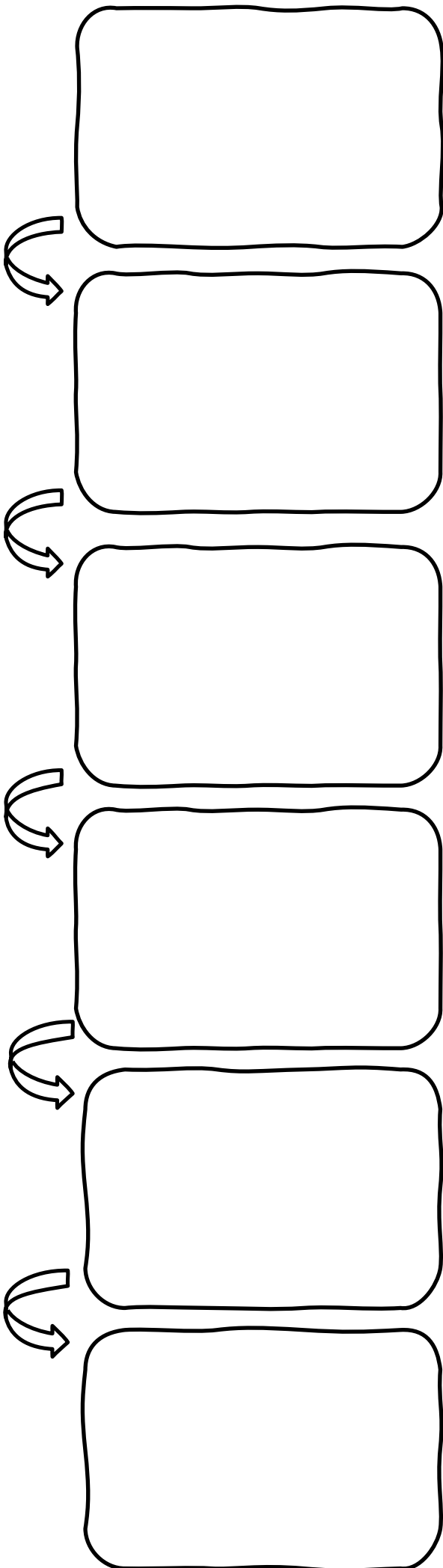
At 8 weeks, the chicks are ready to fledge. They can leave the nest, but the parents will continue to feed them.



At 16 weeks old, a juvenile Major Mitchell's Cockatoo can find their own food. They stay together with parents and siblings in a family group.



At 4 years, the Major Mitchell's Cockatoo is mature and can leave to find their own mate or form a flock with other single birds. They may live to be 60 years old in the wild or over 80 in captivity.





Cut out the stages of the life cycle and glue them onto the previous page in the right order.

Write or glue the life cycle stage names into the space above their description.

Eggs hatch

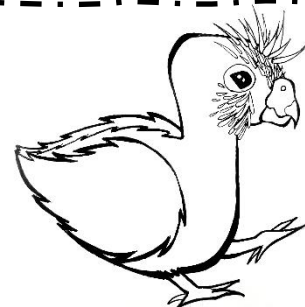
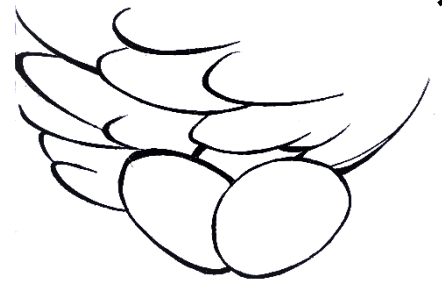
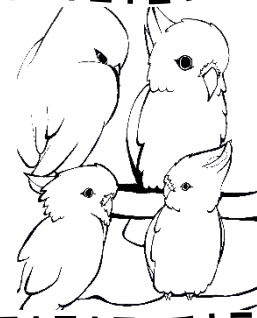
Find hollow

Lay eggs

Chicks leave nest

Juvenile in family group

Adult in flock



What do you think are the most interesting facts about the life cycle of a Major Mitchell's Cockatoo?

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