



Life cycles and inherited traits

Describe life cycle stages and explain how traits are inherited from parents

SCIENCE · GRADE 3 · 45 MIN



TODAY

What we will do

Describe life cycle stages and explain how traits are inherited from parents

- 1 I can name the four stages that all animal life cycles share: birth, growth, reproduction, and death.
- 2 I can describe at least one complete life cycle using a model or diagram.
- 3 I can explain what an inherited trait is and give two examples from plants or animals.
- 4 I can tell the difference between a trait that is inherited and one that is not.

LOOK CLOSELY

What did this puppy inherit from its parent?

Look at the puppy and the parent dog. What looks the same? What looks different?

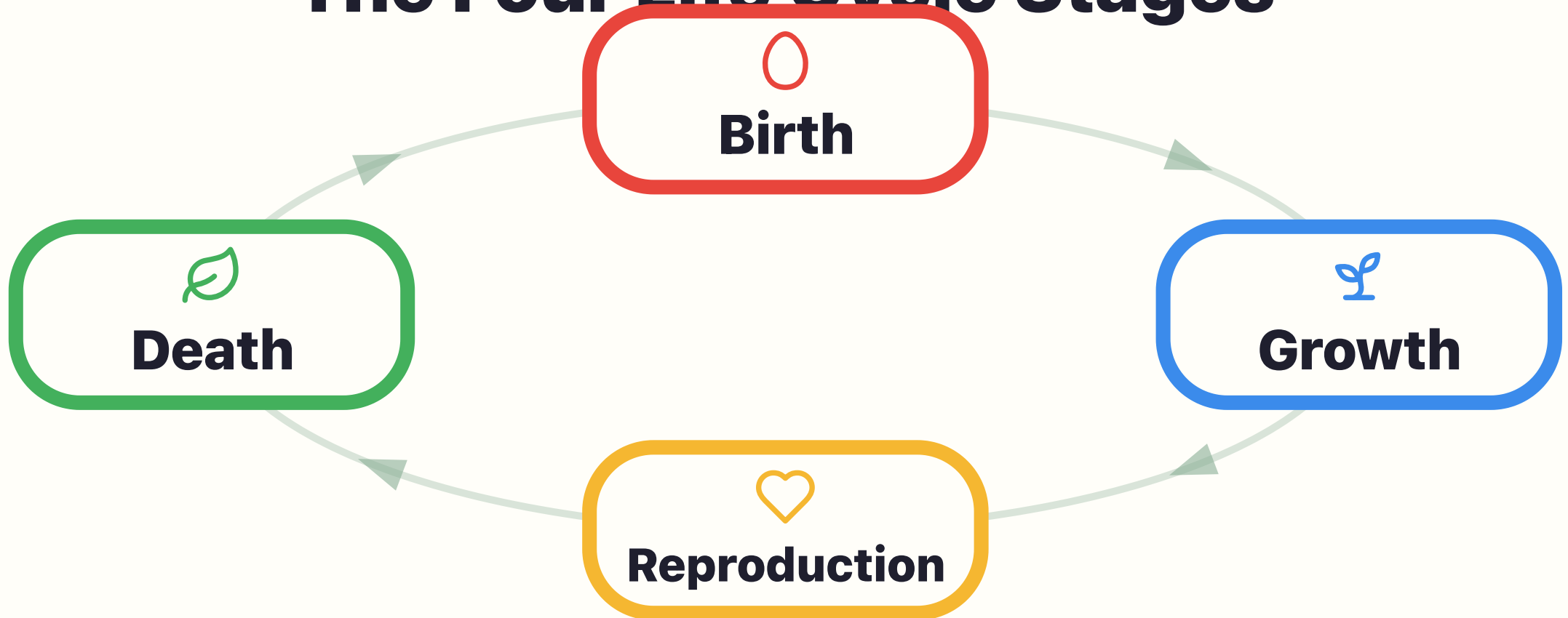


TALK Which similarities do you think the puppy was born with?

Four stages every life cycle shares

Every animal goes through birth, growth, reproduction, and death, in that order.

The Four Life Cycle Stages





KEY IDEA

Inherited trait

in-HAIR-it-ed trayt

A feature passed from a parent to their offspring at birth.

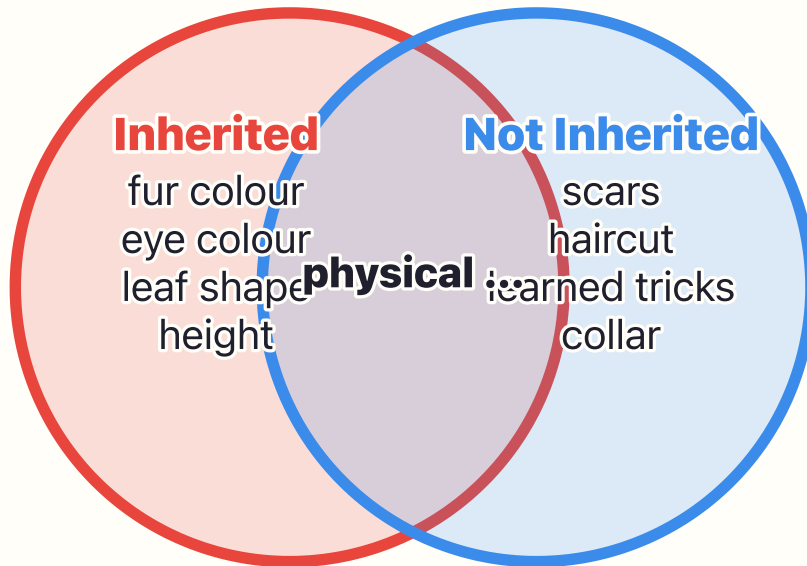


EXAMPLES *Eye colour in humans. Spot patterns in dogs. Leaf shape in plants.*

Inherited vs not inherited

A trait is inherited if the offspring was born with it, passed down from a parent.

Inherited vs Not Inherited

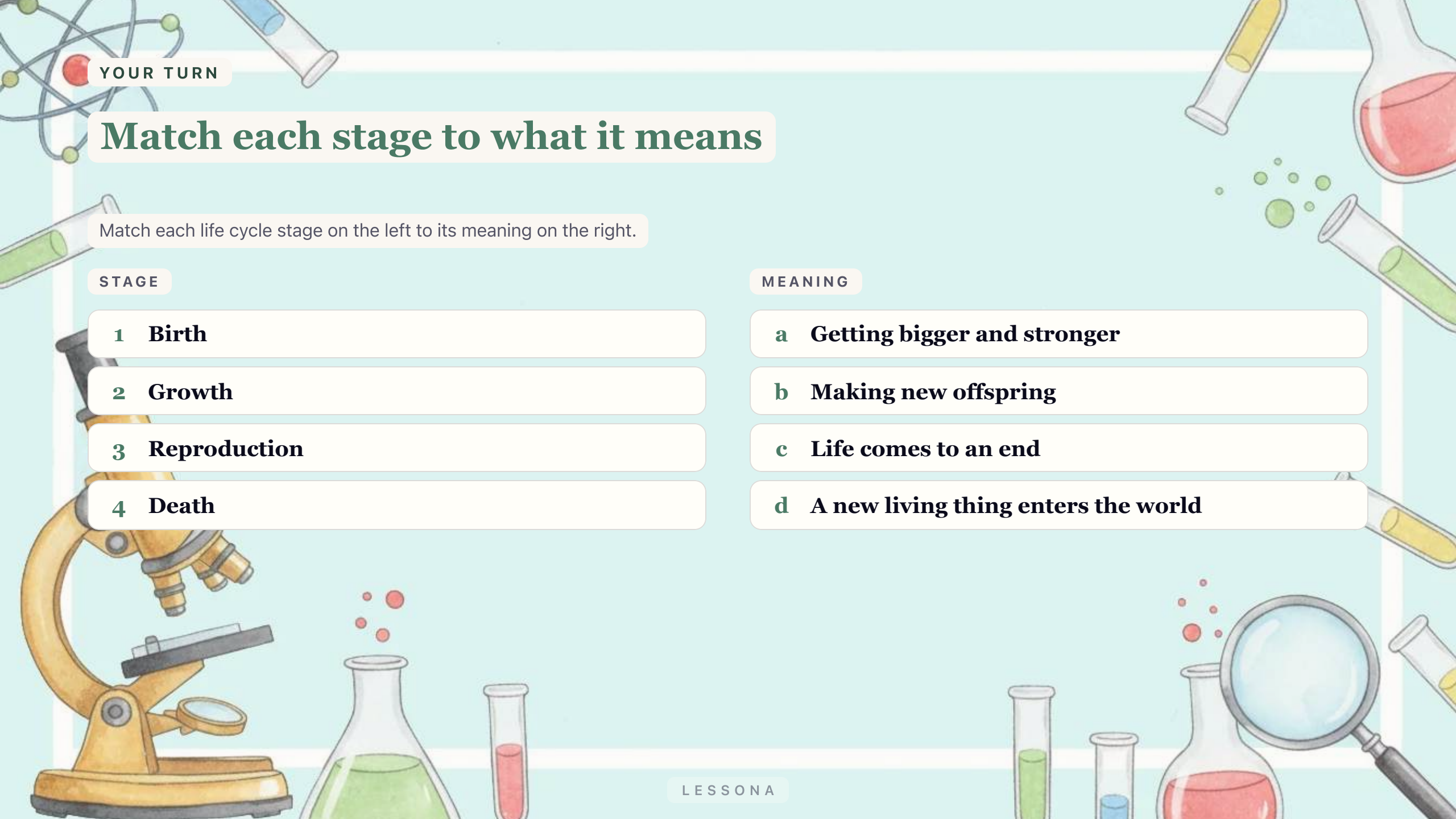


EXAMPLE

A dog's fur colour: inherited. A dog's collar: not inherited.

⚠ WATCH OUT

A scar or a haircut is NOT inherited. Those happen after birth, not because of parents.



YOUR TURN

Match each stage to what it means

Match each life cycle stage on the left to its meaning on the right.

STAGE

1 Birth

2 Growth

3 Reproduction

4 Death

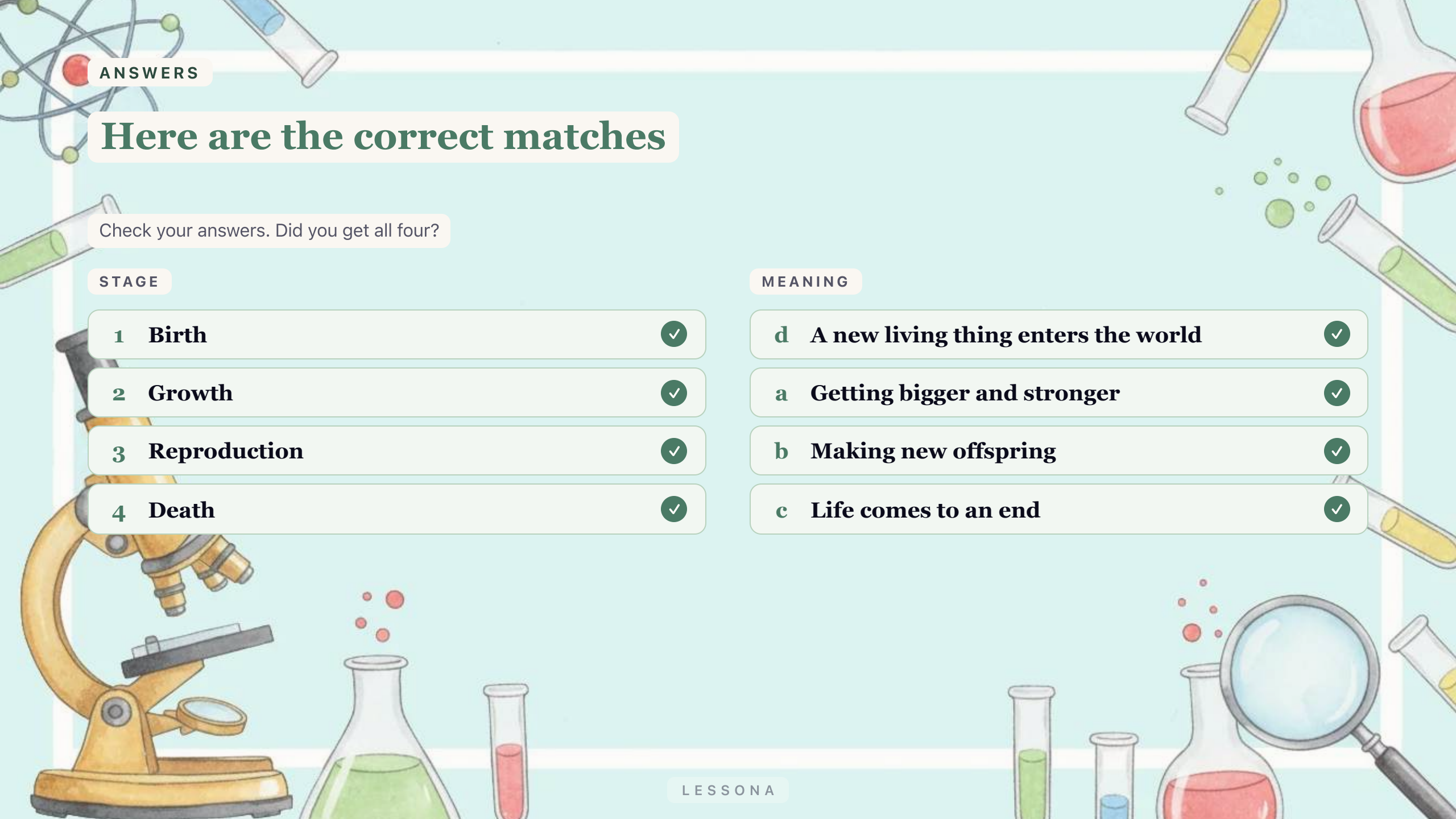
MEANING

a Getting bigger and stronger

b Making new offspring

c Life comes to an end

d A new living thing enters the world



ANSWERS

Here are the correct matches

Check your answers. Did you get all four?

STAGE

1 Birth



2 Growth



3 Reproduction



4 Death



MEANING

d A new living thing enters the world



a Getting bigger and stronger



b Making new offspring



c Life comes to an end



Life cycles and traits: your turn

Emerging

picture-card match

Match picture cards to the four life cycle stages. Circle inherited traits on your sheet.

This trait is inherited because ____.

MATERIALS

picture cards
trait sort sheet
coloured pencils

Name one more inherited trait you see.

Developing

diagram sequence

Sequence a blank life cycle diagram. Label each stage. Write two inherited traits and explain why.

_____ is inherited because ____.

MATERIALS

blank life cycle template
word bank
trait cards

Try a second animal's life cycle.

Extending

compare and explain

Draw life cycles for two animals. Compare stages. Explain what would change if one trait was not inherited.

Both life cycles share _____ but differ in ____.

MATERIALS

comparison template
reference cards
coloured pencils

What if that trait disappeared from the species?

Choose the activity that matches where you are today.



WRAP UP

Three things to remember

- ✓ name the four stages that all animal life cycles share: birth, growth, reproduction, and death.
- ✓ describe at least one complete life cycle using a model or diagram.
- ✓ explain what an inherited trait is and give two examples from plants or animals.