

Here are some different styles of writing about animals.

A

Seema, the tiger, with her stripy coat, crept stealthily through the bushes. She was only two and had just left the gentle care of her mother, Rahana. Rahana had not much longer to live, she was already very old at age 14. In another two years Seema would be able to have her own babies and she had often wondered what it would be like to spend three and a half months with a baby inside her. However, such thoughts were now out of her mind as she concentrated on the wild pig in the undergrowth. It was her first solo hunt.

B

Bullfrog

I start as tadpole, skinny and long
But after three years I sing a good song
Because that's when I can leave my wet bog –
I grow much bigger and turn into a frog.

Another two years and I can now breed
And lay all my eggs amongst the green weed.
They take just three weeks until they can hatch
I leave them alone – no care for my batch!

My life is not long – short is my life span
It's only nine years till I kick the can.

C

Rat

Gestation time:
22 days

Looked after by
parents for:
2 weeks

Able to reproduce after:
12 weeks

Life span:
3 years

D

Hares are born after a gestation time of about 1.5 months. The baby hares, called leverets, are born with fur and can hop around after only a few minutes. Their mother will feed them for about the first month but they are then left alone. Female hares are ready to reproduce after about a year and the average life span is about 5 years.



- 1 Scientists just want the facts about how an animal lives. Which style of writing would be best for a scientist?
- 2 Which animal's gestation time is:
 - a the shortest
 - b the longest?
- 3 Which animal is looked after by its parents for the longest time?
- 4 Some animals have a lot of young because many do not survive. Which of the animals do you think has the most young? Explain your reasoning.
- 5 There is a big difference between the life cycle of the bullfrog and the others. What is this difference?

Optional extra

- 6 Make a display for all the information. Your display should only contain the facts about the animals. You might like to draw some tables, charts or graphs to show the differences between the animals.

**knowledge, literacy, numeracy, presenting**