

# American Museum of Natural History

## Field Trip: Reproductive Strategies



Today we will look at a variety of reproductive strategies that animals use. We will examine the reproductive strategy, the advantages of that strategy, and the disadvantages, if any. You will be observing dioramas, reading text about the dioramas, and figuring some things out for yourselves.

As you think of questions over the course of this trip, write them down to share at the end.

### Part 1: Human Reproduction

#### A. Observe the video at the exhibit called "Humans are Alive."

1. What process is being depicted? \_\_\_\_\_
2. In what part of the cell is this taking place? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What are those stringy things that you see lining up and then separating? \_\_\_\_\_

#### B. Humans are Mammals

1. Name and give examples of 3 kinds of mammals. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. How are these mammals different? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. How are they alike, what makes them all mammals? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. On the next page list the main structures and functions of the male and female reproductive systems.

## Female Reproductive System

Structure	Function

## Male Reproductive System

Structure	Function

**Part 2: Amphibians and Reptiles**

A. Display # 8 Amphibian Reproduction

1. Compare the process of fertilization in the spotted salamander and the wood frog. \_\_\_\_\_

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B. Display # 9

1. Describe some of the steps involved in a single fertilized egg developing into a tadpole. \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Pick one species of frog and explain how it takes care of it's eggs after they are laid. \_\_\_\_\_

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C. Display # 4: Reptile Reproduction

1. *Parthenogenesis* is defined as "the development of an unfertilized egg." What species of snake uses that reproductive strategy and how does it work? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. Name a species of snake that practices “delayed fertilization” and explain how it could be an advantage.

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**Part 3: Fishes**

A. Reproduction (Arch 6)

1. Compare “hermaphroditism” in fish with the parthenogenesis we read about in reptiles. \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Pick an example of “extreme reproductive specialization” and explain it. \_\_\_\_\_

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**Part 4: Final Journal Reflections**

In your journals, reflect on what you have learned today. What were the most interesting things, what general ideas did you get about reproduction? Why do you think there are so many different reproductive strategies?