



Canada Agriculture and Food Museum

A mammal's life cycle

Name:

Date:

This text describes the stages in the life cycle of a sheep, which is a mammal. However, the paragraphs are in the wrong order. Cut out the paragraphs (follow the dotted lines) and re-arrange them so that the stages are in the correct order.

The life of a sheep



The leaves are falling and it's getting cooler. Fall has come. The sheep is eight months old. It's now an adult! It is large and strong enough to look after itself. This adult sheep is male and so it's called a ram. An adult female is called a ewe.



Within an hour of being born, the lamb can stand up. It must find the ewe's two teats to drink milk. The ewe stays close to the lamb, because it's very small. She protects it, keeps it warm and makes sure it can drink whenever it's hungry.





It's hot! Summer has arrived. The lamb has grown a great deal. It's now called a sheep. It hardly drinks any milk at this stage, so the ewe produces less and less. The sheep now eats hay. It also likes to eat grass and grains, such as oats or corn.



For the ram to become a father, it must meet an adult ewe. The lamb grows in the ewe's womb. It takes five months for it to develop. Like its parents, the lamb will be born when winter is over.



When the lamb is a week old, it can venture farther away from the ewe. There are many other lambs in the flock. They like to play and explore together. After their adventures, each lamb returns to its mother.



It's springtime. The snow is starting to melt. Every day is a little milder. A ewe gives birth to a lamb. She cleans the lamb with her tongue. Her lamb has a special scent. This scent helps the ewe recognize her lamb. Sometimes ewes have twins and even triplets!



This lesson plan was produced by the Canada Agriculture and Food Museum.

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