

Life Stages of Mammals



Study*ladder*

Mammals

Mammals are warm blooded animals.

They give birth to fully formed babies and feed them milk from their mammary glands.

They do not lay eggs.

Humans, cats, dogs, cows and many other animals are all mammals.



Development at Birth

Some mammals are quite helpless when they are born.

For example, puppies and kittens are blind and deaf when they are born.

Their brain and parts of their bodies are still developing. This is why their eyes are closed when they are born. They open them after 1-2 weeks, when they are fully developed.



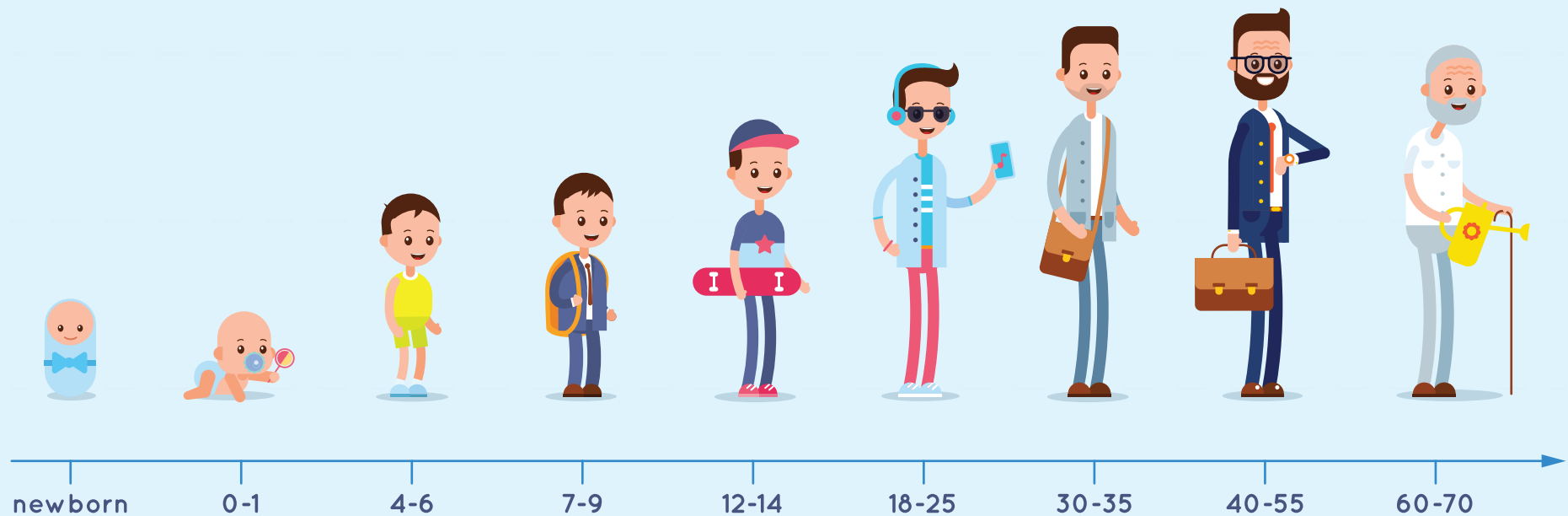
Some mammals are fully developed and able to get up and walk around not long after they are born.

Animals like horses, giraffes and elephants live in groups. Their babies need to be able to run when there is danger and keep up with the rest of the herd.



Human Life Stages

Humans are Mammals. We are helpless when we are born. We can see and hear but we cannot walk when we are born. It takes years for us to grow and mature into adults.



Life Expectancy of Mammals

Some species of mammals only live, on average, for a short time. Others can live very long lives.

A mouse has a potential life expectancy of about one year in the wild. In that time it can have as many as ten litters of mice.

Many species of whales can live for over one hundred years. Amazingly, Bowhead Whales can live for 200 years!

Humans have a potential life span of over 80 years.

gorilla	40+
chimpanzee	50+
lion	24+
elephant	78
hippopotamus	42
kangaroo	24
rhinoceros	47
echidna	49
sea lion	12
zebra	28
grizzly bear	47
grey wolf	20
polar bear	21
squirrel	14

Potential Life Span (in years)

