

EXPLORE OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM. LEARN INSIDE OUR STATE.

Life Cycle of a Fish

Leadville National Fish Hatchery

Background:

During a trip to the Leadville National Fish Hatchery, visitors will glimpse the fish production process in action. The hatchery supports the replenishment of the state's fish population to encourage a viable population and ensure Colorado's lakes and streams provide fishing opportunities for recreational users for years to come. Learn more about the [history of the Leadville National Fish Hatchery](#).

All animals and plants pass through a series of stages during their lifetime, called a life cycle. Fish are no different and go through similar stages as other living things during their life cycle.

Activity: Take a self-guided tour of the hatchery and brownstone buildings. After your tour, complete the Life Cycle of a Fish diagram below identifying the stages a fish goes through during their life. Draw a picture in each box and label (see word alert below) to show the stages of the life cycle.

Word Alert:

- *Egg* - Laid by adult fish; they hatch into larva
- *Larva* - Recently hatched fish that feed off their yolk sac for nutrition
- *Fry* - Small fish that can feed itself
- *Juvenile* - Young fish that spends its time eating and growing; Starts to look like an adult fish
- *Adult* - Full grown fish that can lay eggs and start the cycle again

Life Cycle of a Fish Diagram

