TIME FOR KIDS

The Human Life Cycle



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For teachers' inspection ONLY

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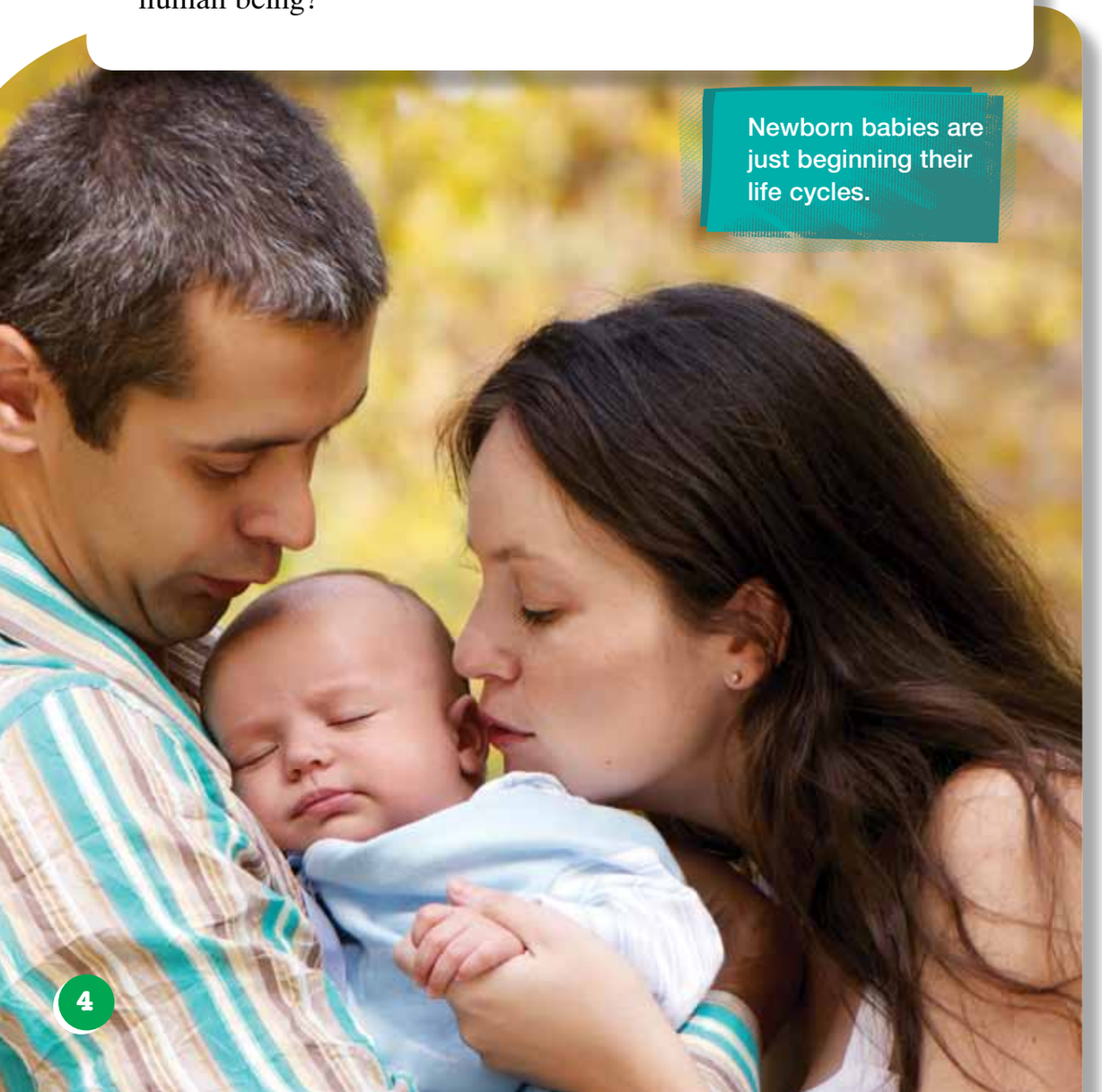
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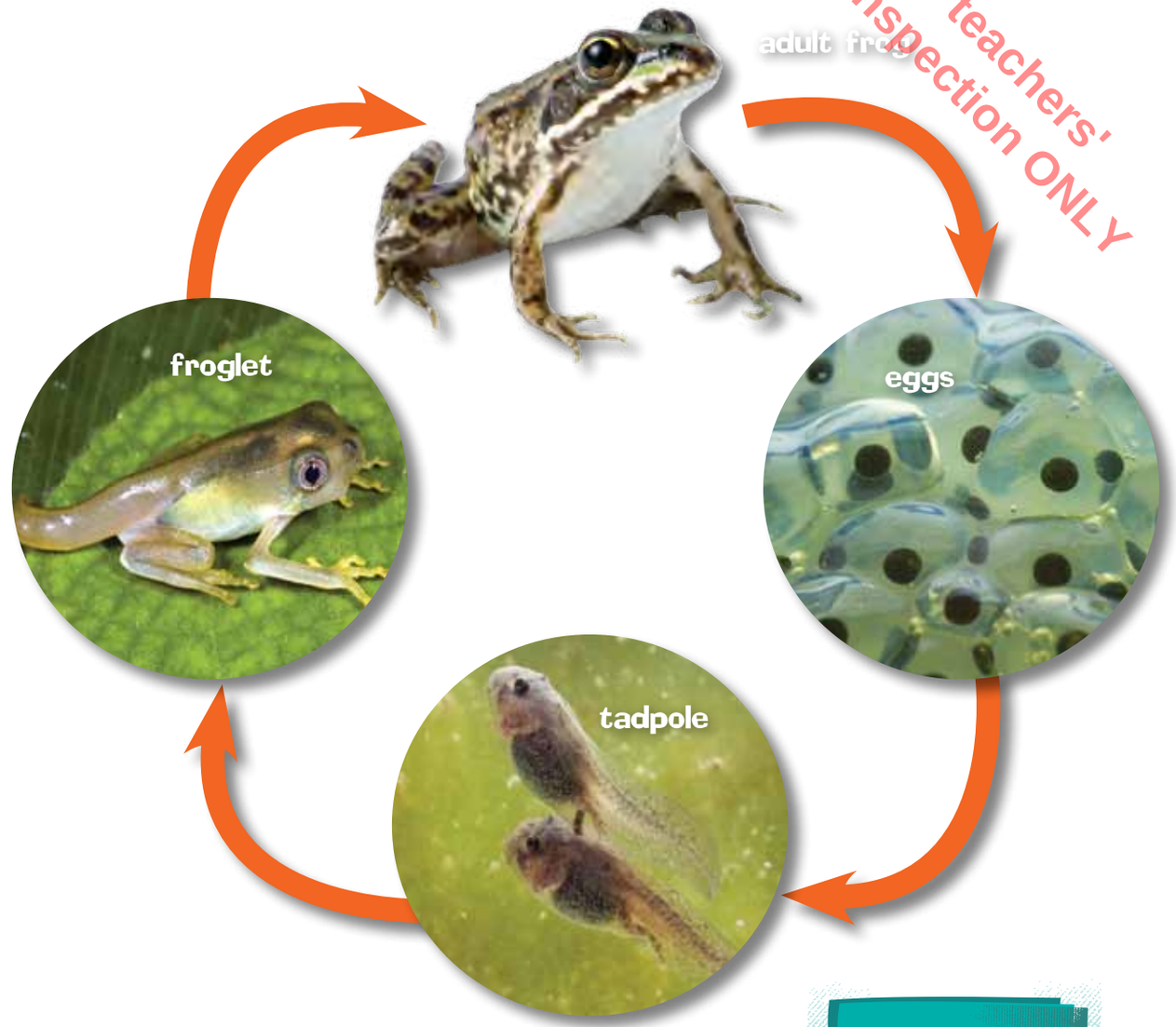
The Life Cycle of Change

Most of us know about the **life cycles** of butterflies and frogs. They begin as eggs and then change and grow throughout their lives. But have you thought about the life cycle of a human being?



Newborn babies are just beginning their life cycles.

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adult stinkbug with hatchlings and eggs

People change and grow from the time they are born until the time they die. They keep learning, too. People develop wonderful **abilities** as they grow.

People grow from infancy to childhood, to adolescence, to adulthood, and finally to old age.



Think about all the things you can do today. Could you do those things just a few years ago?



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Infants often learn about the world around them by putting things in their mouths.

How Big?

Babies are tiny, but they don't all weigh the same when they are born. Newborn babies usually weigh between 5 and 11 pounds at birth. But some babies are as small as one pound at birth and have survived. The largest baby ever born, according to the *Guinness Book of World Records,* was 24 pounds! That's the size of three or four average babies!

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Infancy

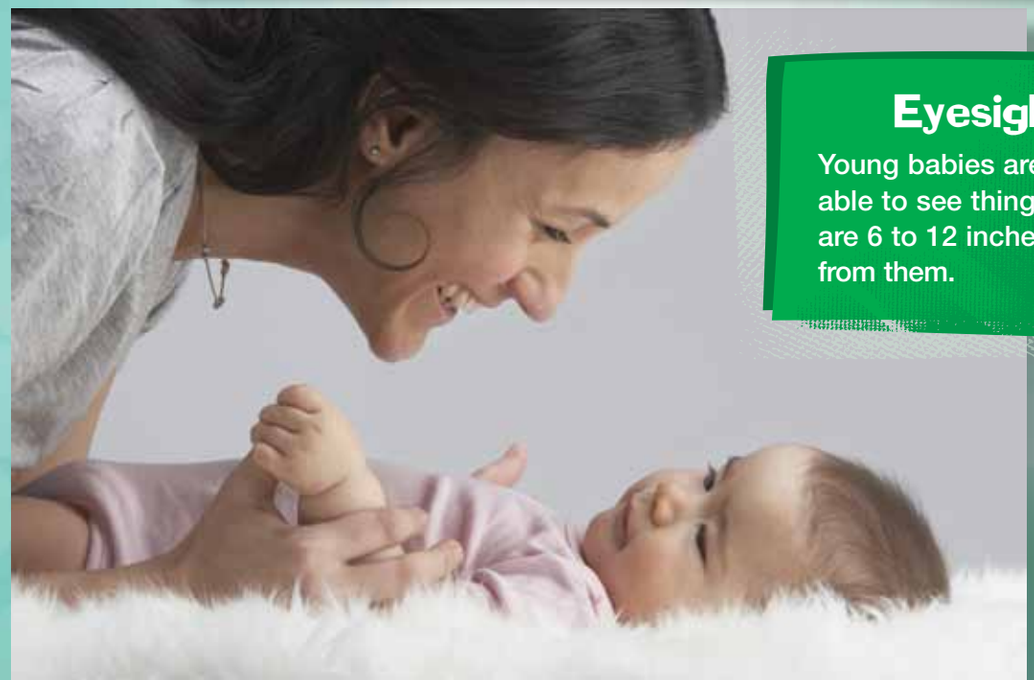
We all begin as babies. This is called **infancy**. Infancy is a time of fast growth and change in a short period of time.

One to Four Months

At first, babies, or **infants**, are helpless. They are very small, and they need 15 to 18 hours of sleep each day. Over time, they learn to hold their heads up and roll over.

Young babies don't have good eyesight, but their senses of smell, hearing, and taste are very good. What do babies do when they grab toys? They put them in their mouths. This is the best way they have to explore their world.

As their eyesight develops, young babies begin to identify different faces. They can tell the differences between colors and patterns. They begin to imitate people's **expressions**. They recognize the voices of their **caregivers**. And they communicate, mostly through crying.



Eyesight

Young babies are best able to see things that are 6 to 12 inches away from them.