

Life History

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Section 1: Life Cycles and Life Histories

Introduction to reproductive strategies, life cycles, trade-offs, and the foundations of life history. Exploration of life cycle diversity in marine environments. Examples of classic studies of clutch size evolution in birds.

- The Game of Life
- The Wondrous Diversity of Life Histories
- Trade-offs Underlie Life-History Evolution
- Example: How Many Eggs to Lay?
- Costs and Benefits of Smaller Clutch Size in Kestrels
- Section Summary
- Ask Your Instructor

Section 2: Life-History Parameters

Introduction to demographic parameters that describe populations: birth and death rates, mortality, fecundity, and population growth rate. Contrast species with low and high fecundity. Use of age pyramids to explore life-history differences across and within populations.

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- A Squirrel's Life
- Survivorship
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Section 4: Trade-Offs and Life-History Evolution

Discussion of classic evolutionary trade-offs using a fish simulation. Introduction of the Principle of Allocation. Exploration of different ways of classifying life-history strategies. Investigating fish reproductive strategy evolution in simulated habitats with differences in environmental stability.

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- Trade-Offs with Age of First Reproduction
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- The Principle of Allocation
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