



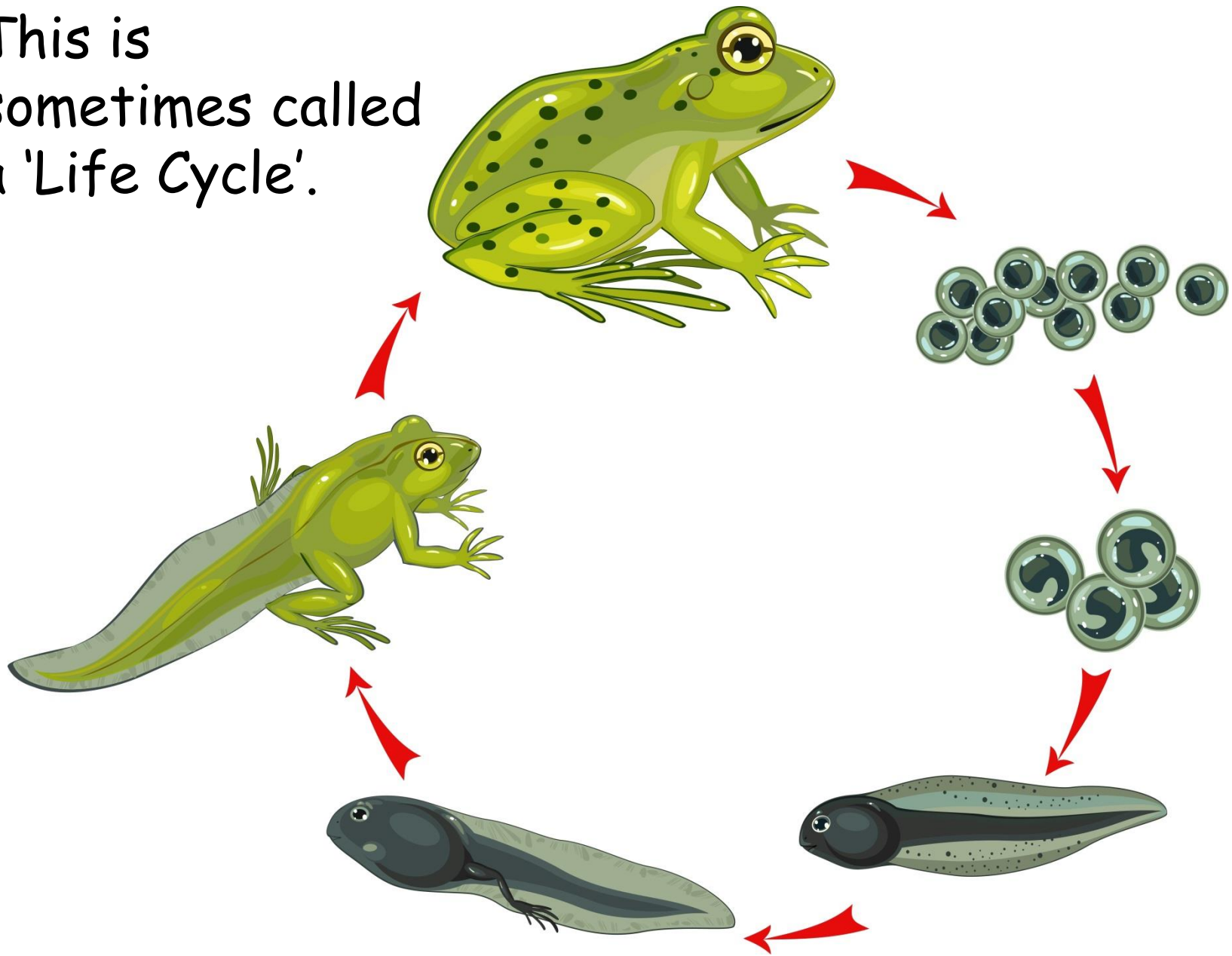
In this lesson we will be learning about the end of life and the role of hospices.



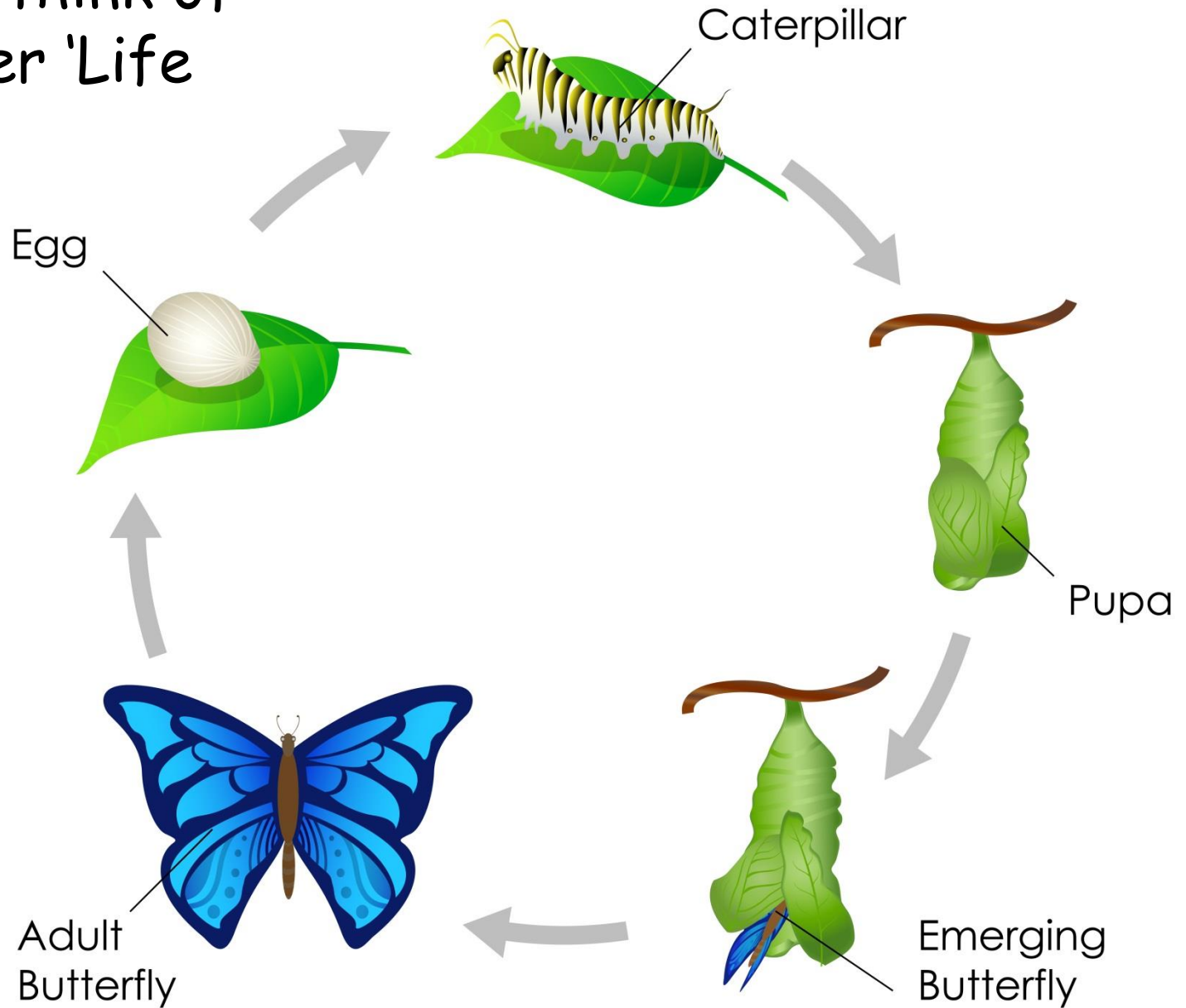
All living things go through a process of life,
growth and death



This is
sometimes called
a 'Life Cycle'.



Can you think of
any other 'Life
Cycles'?



*Click to
continue*



For some living things this process is longer or shorter than for others.



What is the life expectancy of a leaf?



In humans the process is slow and continuous.



In the UK human beings born nowadays can expect to live 81 years!





However, in some parts of the world where there is disease, poverty or war, 'life expectancy' is only 40 years.





Unfortunately, some people all over the world have their lives cut short by accidents, or illnesses for which we haven't yet found a cure.



When someone with an incurable illness is nearing the end of their life, they may choose to go into a **hospice**, where the staff and volunteers help them live as fully as they can for the precious time they have left.



If they are unable to cure their disease, the staff in the hospice offer the patients 'palliative care' - medicine that keeps them free from pain.



They also offer 'alternative therapies' such as massage to make patients comfortable.



Some hospices specialise in caring for children who are seriously ill.





Sometimes someone will visit the child's school to explain to pupils about their friend's illness and the treatment they are having.



As well as taking care of patients' physical needs, the hospice staff look after their emotional, spiritual and social needs.



They also support the family and close friends of the patient, during their illness and after they have died.



Families are normally very grateful to the staff and volunteers of the hospice for cherishing their loved ones during their last days.



Glossary

- **Life-cycle** - stages of development
- **Life expectancy** - the length of time living things are expected to live
- **Hospice** - a nursing home for people who are terminally ill
- **Volunteer** - an unpaid helper
- **Palliative care** - treatment of pain
- **Alternative therapies** - a treatment used instead of medicine.
- **Cherishing** - valuing, caring.

