



## KS1 Baby Animals

This resource contains a range of activities focusing on the great variety of babies that different animals have. Some of the activities are to be completed during a visit to Marwell Zoo, whilst others can be done back at school.

## Curriculum Links

### SCIENCE

#### **Year 1 Animals, including humans**

- identify and name a variety of common animals, including fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals

#### **Year 2 Animals, including humans**

- notice that animals, including humans, have offspring which grow into adults



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### **Chick Story**

This activity is to order the pictures and/or the sentences correctly to describe the family life of birds. There are two levels of the activity – the first is easier as the words are already in order. In Chick Story 1, you could cut out the pictures to sort them out, and in Chick Story 2 you could cut out the sentence strips and stick them down in the right order. You could also use the pictures from Chick Story 1 with the sentences from Chick Story 2.

### **Birds' Nests**

If doing this with younger children, you can talk through the questions, and ask them to draw the nest on a larger sheet of paper. If you are doing this activity in school or do not see the weaver birds at Marwell, use the nest photo in Appendix 1.

They could build their own nest models using small sticks, straw, some short lengths of wool, string, or raffia and some moss or leaves for lining.

### **Bird Life Cycles**

Fill in the missing words and draw the missing pictures to finish the life cycles of the penguin and the crane.

### **Not Only Birds Lay Eggs**

Most reptiles, nearly all amphibians and fish, and many invertebrates lay eggs, as well as birds. This page has some photos of some animals with their eggs, to illustrate the diversity of animals which lay eggs. The activity is to match the words with the pictures. It could lead to discussion or research on other examples of egg-layers, whether the parents look after the eggs or leave them to hatch (compare crocodiles' parental care with turtles "buries and leaves" behaviour with their eggs). Or look at the quantities of eggs laid: animals which do not take care of their offspring, such as fishes and frogs, will lay a large number of eggs. Animals which take care of their offspring, such as birds, or whose eggs or chicks are less likely to be predated, will produce fewer eggs. eg: cod: 5 million, frog: 1500, grass snake: 40, robin: 3-5, penguin: 1.

### **Wendy Wallaby**

Colour the pieces with soft crayons or wax crayons, using short strokes to get a furry texture. Leave the insides of the ears white and the Wendy's tummy paler brown than her back.

When she and her pouch are made, you can play with Wendy, put her into the pouch, use her like a finger puppet, or make up stories for her. Use the facts in Appendix 2 to find out more about real wallaby babies.

You can change her name too, if you want to! Maybe yours is a Walter, or a Warren, or a Willow...

### **How Grown-up are the Babies?**

Giraffes and zebras, and the other hoofed animals, are born almost ready to run! They look very like their parents in shape and patterns – just smaller. They can stand up after 20 minutes to an hour, and then very quickly are able to run. All their senses are developed at birth too. They need this to be able to escape from being eaten by predators, such as lions. The mum will feed them milk and look after them for up to 18 months for a giraffe, but they look and behave in many ways like mini-adults from birth.

Compare this with helpless human babies, or birds such as greater flamingos, born covered in soft down instead of flying feathers! The humans and sun conures are much less developed when they are born, and need full care from parents for quite some time, feeding, cleaning, teaching and protection.

The activity is a simple matching one, but could be extended into finding out about more animals which are un-developed at birth, which ones are well-developed, and finding out how long they take to grow up.

### **Which Baby Animals Can You See?**

Make several copies of the Tick List for the children to fill in – you will probably see enough babies (or at least young animals) for 2 pages or more.

When the children see a baby animal, they:

- write the name in the left hand column,
- draw a little picture of the baby animal in the middle column if there is time
- write down what it was doing
- put a big tick in the right hand column

# Chick Story 1

Birds have babies called chicks.  
The pictures are in the wrong order.  
Join them to the right words with a line.

1. The birds build a nest.
2. The mother bird lays eggs in the nest.
3. Parents sit on the eggs to keep them warm.
4. The eggs break open and chicks come out.
5. Parents feed the chicks.



# Chick Story 2

Birds have babies called chicks.

Sort the sentences below into the right order, to tell the story.

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☐ Parent birds build a nest.



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☐ Parents sit on the eggs to keep them warm.

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☐ Mother bird lays eggs in the nest.



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☐ Chicks learn to find their own food.

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☐ Often the chicks learn to fly.

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☐ Parents usually feed the chicks at first.

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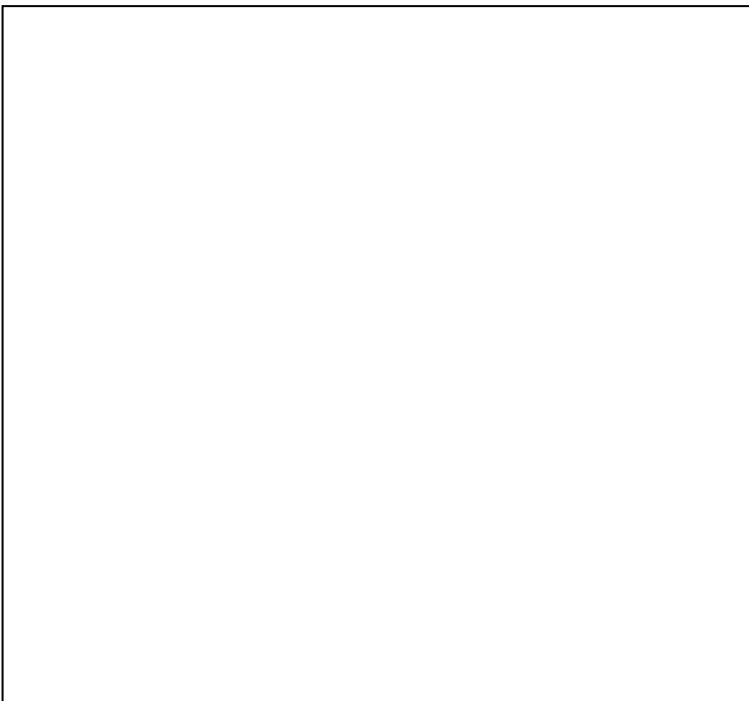
☐ Chicks hatch out of the eggs.



# Birds' Nests

**Go to the walk-through aviary, and see if you can spot any nests. Then think about, talk about and/or write about the questions below.**

- Can you spot the special round nests which the weaver birds build in the trees? Draw a picture of one in the box below, or on spare paper.
- Where is the entrance to the nest? \_\_\_\_\_
- What is the nest made of? \_\_\_\_\_
- Why do you think they have built the nests up in the trees, not on the ground?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Some birds do have nests on the ground, like the crowned lapwing below. So how can they try to keep their nests safe?  
\_\_\_\_\_



**Weaver bird nest**

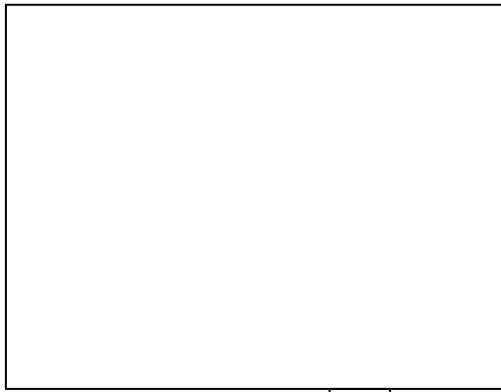


**Crowned lapwing**

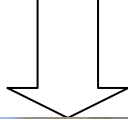


# Bird life cycles

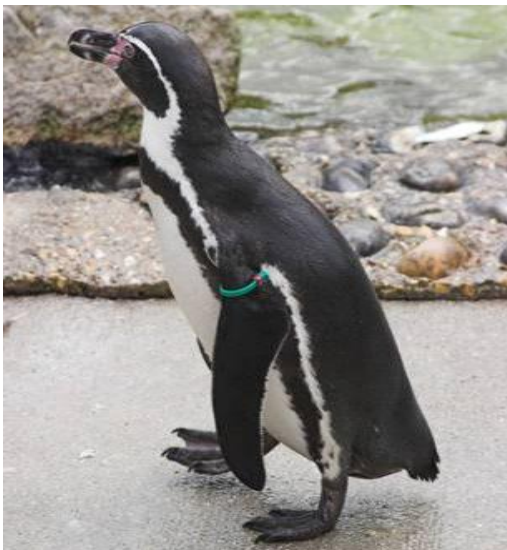
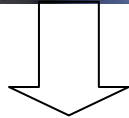
Fill in the words and pictures below, using words from the central box where you need them.



egg

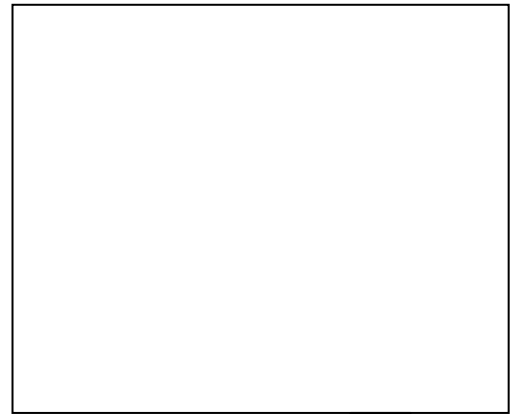


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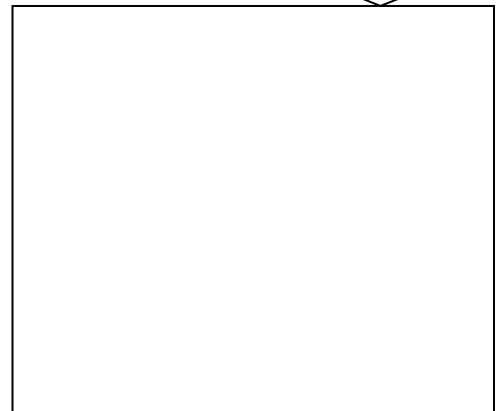
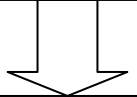


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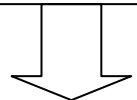
**penguin**



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chick



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**hornbill**

# Not Only Birds Lay Eggs!

Join the word boxes to the right pictures.



## Gecko

A tokay gecko (a lizard) is looking after its eggs.

## Snake

A baby snake is hatching from its egg.

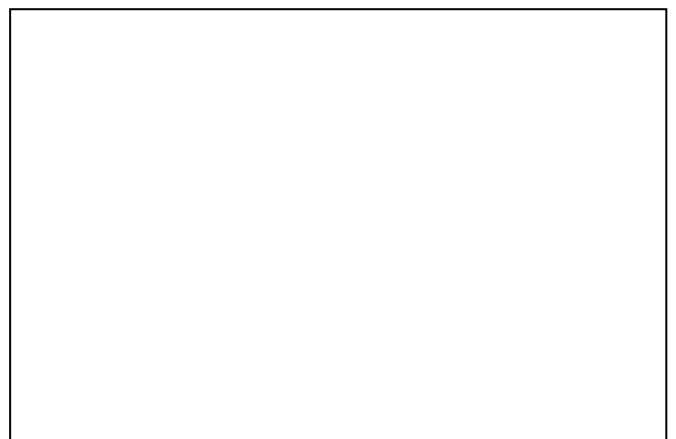
## Ostrich

A mother ostrich is looking after her eggs.



## Frog

A frog is with its frogspawn (eggs).



Can you think of any other animals which lay eggs? Draw one in the empty box above.

# Meet and make ...Wendy Wallaby

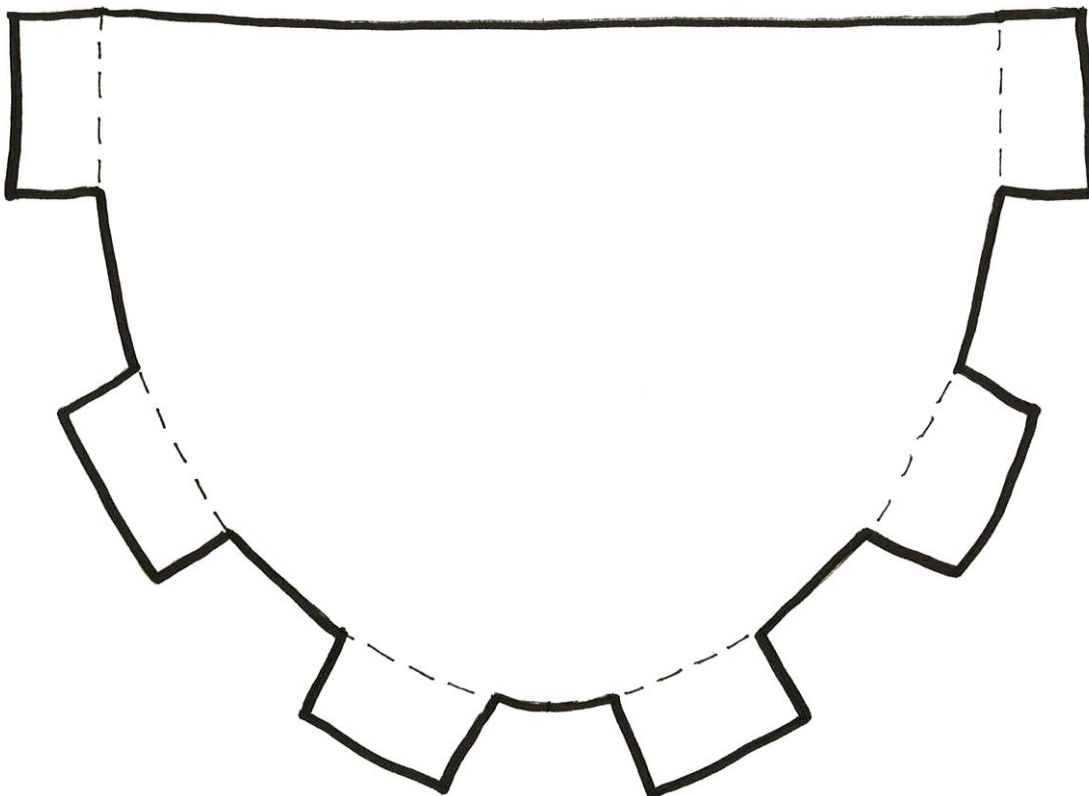
Wendy is a wallaby "joey" – a baby wallaby.

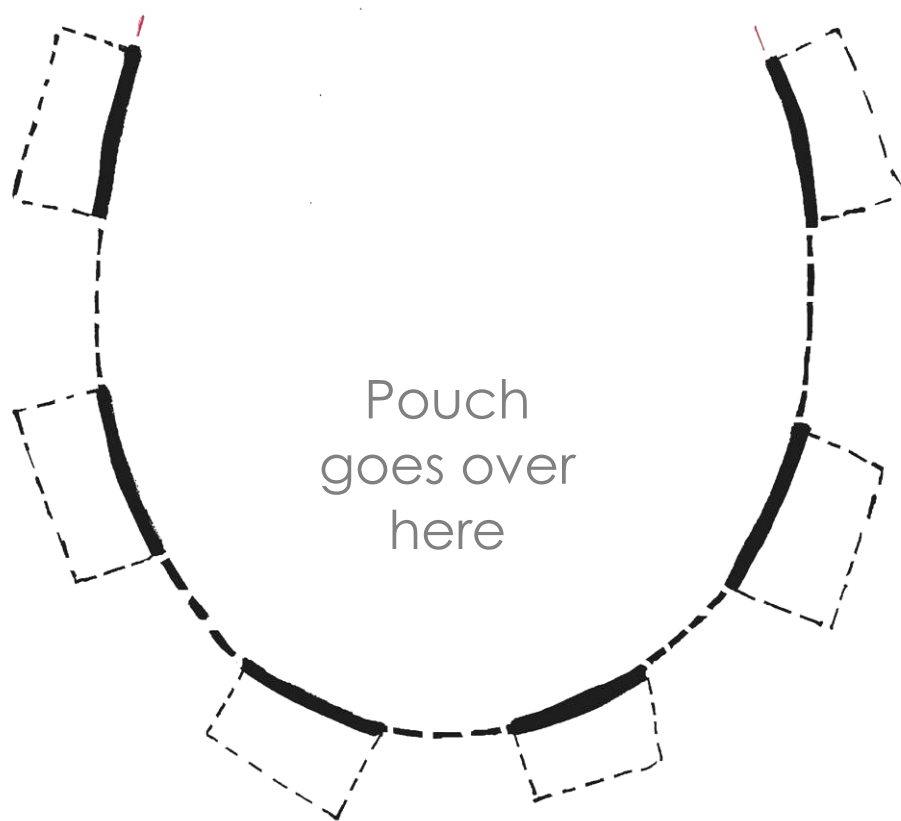
A wallaby is like a small kangaroo, and they live in Australia. The joeys live in their mothers' pouches for several months while they grow. You can colour and make the pouch and the joey to go in it, using this page and the next 2 pages, with crayons, scissors and glue.



## How to make the pouch:

- Colour the pouch below, with furry brown marks
- Cut it out along the thick black lines; fold the dotted lines (upwards)
- Colour the body page all over, except where the pouch is going.
- Put some glue on the back of the tabs on pouch and stick onto the body where shown, curving the paper to fit.

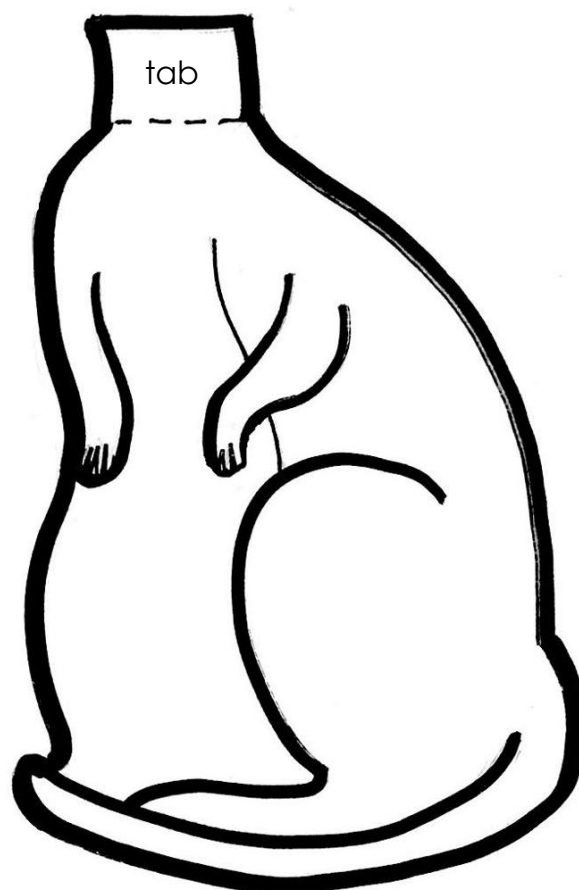
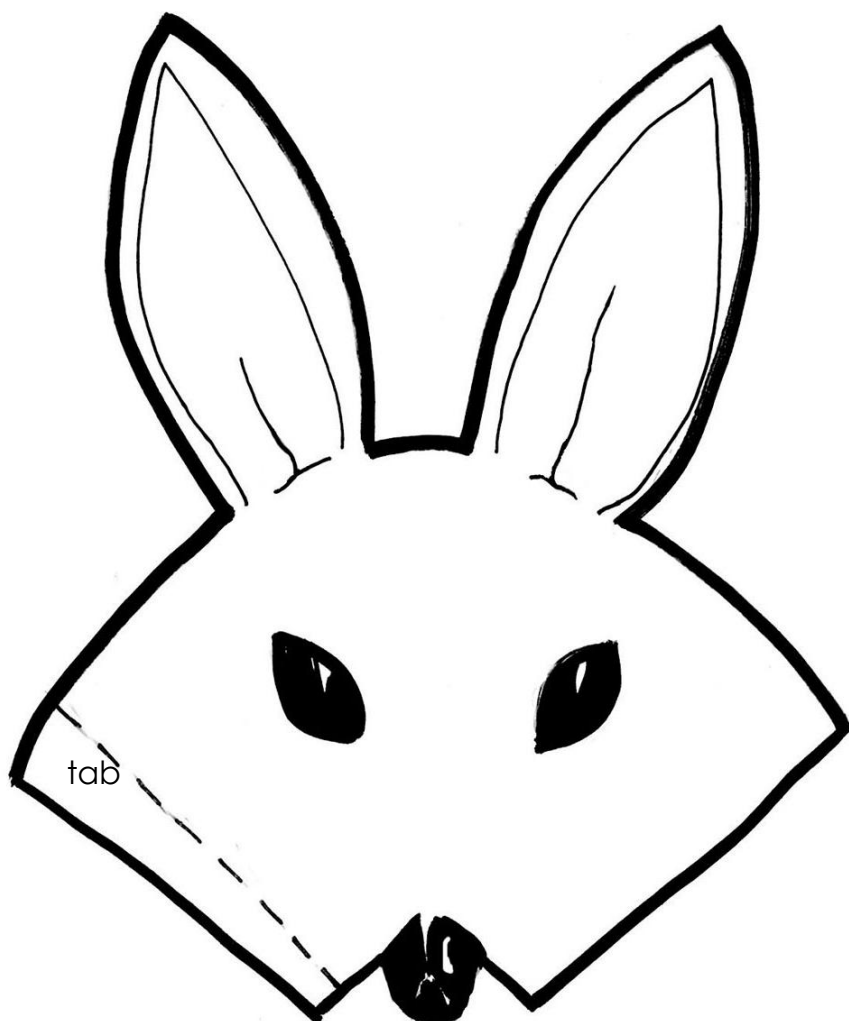








**Marwell  
Wildlife**



### **How to make Wendy:**

- Colour the head and body on this page
- Cut out round the thick black lines
- Put glue on the tabs up to the dotted lines
- Fold the head round in a cone shape and stick together
- Fold the ears up
- Fold the nose down
- Fold the neck tab forward into the lower back of head

# How “grown-up” are the babies?

Some newborn babies need more help than others. There is a baby picture and an adult picture of three species of animals on this page. Match the baby with its parent.

Which baby below do you think is ready to run away an hour after birth?



**Greater flamingo**



**Human**



**Giraffe**



# Have you seen any baby animals?

Animal	Picture	What is the baby doing?	Tick



# Appendix 1

## Weaver bird nests



Yes – these clever little birds weave strips of leaves and grass into a round ball that is their nest!

The male weaver birds build these special nests in order to attract a mate. If the females aren't impressed with his first attempt, he will destroy the nest and start again!

The whole nest takes around 11 hours to complete. When a female has chosen the male with the nest she likes best, she will line the inside with leaves and feathers to make it nice and snug for her eggs.

Ref: Handbook of the Birds of the World, Vol. 15 (2010)



# Appendix 2

## Wallaby facts



*Photos: Marwell Wildlife*

When a wallaby is born it is not well developed. It is blind and about the size of a baked bean! It uses its sense of smell to crawl up to its mother's pouch and, once inside, clasps onto a nipple to feed. The "joey" stays in the pouch for six to nine months. During the last 3 months, it will get in and out of the pouch, hopping back in quickly if scared by anything!

Wallaby Book: "There's an Ouch in My Pouch!" by Jeanne Willis is about the arrival of a new sibling in the family, and also accurate in its wallaby science.

This baked bean is about 12 mm long – about the size of a wallaby "pouch embryo" when it is born.

