

Teacher's Guide to Odyssey: *Babies: Journey to Life*

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Objective: Students will gain an understanding of what happens from conception to life.

Where Don't Babies Come From? pages 6-8 **discussion/research**

After discussing the article, do library research. Have half the class find fiction stories about birth and the other half find non-fiction stories about birth. Come back together and discuss the stories. Talk about which ones students have heard of before.

Nine Awesome Months! pages 9-13 **vocabulary and math**

Possible vocabulary words: *ovaries, fertilized, hormones, follicle, fallopian tube, conception, gestation, placenta, fetus, amniotic fluid, obstetrician, vermix, ultrasound, surfactant.*

- Break into groups. Use rulers to measure objects (examples: paper clip, pen) that compare with the length of a developing baby from month one to month nine.
- Note: extra research may be needed to find the fetus size for some months. If time, find objects of equal weight also. Post findings under headings One Month, Two Months, etc. on chart paper.

Happy Birth Day! pages 14-16 **interview questions**

Students will not remember their own birth day experience, but someone in the family will. After discussing the article, have each student write five questions to ask an adult about their birth or the birth of another child if he/she is adopted or in foster care. Share the interview answers the students bring back.

*Sample questions: How many hours did labor last? Did the birth take place at home or in a hospital?

A Day in the Life of Obstetrician D. Robin Kalish, pages 17-19 **writing**

Some pregnancies result in multiple births. Find website or book information about one of these.

McCaughey septuplets (6) Dionne quintuplets (5) Fischer quintuplets (5)

Pretend you are one child in the set and write a paragraph about what it would be like for you to be in the family. Then write five facts about the set of children.

Testing, Testing..., pages 20-23 **science conclusions**

Circle six things below that may be determined with an ultrasound.

Hair color	Baby's sex	Heart function	Right or left handedness
Kidney shape	Brain growth	Hearing	Number of toes, fingers

See if anyone in the class can bring in an ultrasound picture of a baby. Look at the picture and discuss what can be seen in the picture.

Y Am I a Boy? How Sex is Determined, pages 24-25 **comparing information**

Discuss how the sex of boy and girl babies is determined. Then do the following.

Place these headings on the board:

Turtles Zebra Fish Frogs Clown Fish Snails Slipper Limpets

Break into groups—one for each heading. Have each group list important information about sex determination of the creatures they have. Discuss and compare findings.

Celebrating Life: Science Lends a Hand, page 26-31 **ordering**

Possible vocabulary: *in vitro fertilization (IVF), gametes, embryologist, incubator, eggs, sperm, enzyme, uterus, embryo*

Put the following steps in order using numbers 1-6.

- ___ Five or six eggs are put together with 100,000-150,000 sperm.
- ___ The fertilized egg grows into many cells called an embryo.
- ___ The sperm attaches itself to an egg after breaking up the jelly-like cells around the egg.
- ___ The embryo is placed into a woman's uterus.
- ___ One or more eggs is removed from a patient.
- ___ Eggs are washed and put in a medium similar to what is in a patient's body.

Dangerous Day One, pages 32-35 **research**

Divide the class into groups. Have one person from each group select a slip of paper out of a cup with one of the following names:

Moose Fox Tiger Zebra Pandas
Opossum Cow Horse Sheep Kangaroo

Ask each group to find information about the birth of the baby. Answer these questions:

1. How long is gestation?
 2. Does the animal have single or multiple births?
 3. How does the baby get food?
 4. What does the parent teach the baby?
 5. How long before the baby can live by itself?
- Share the information.

Rebecca's First Year, pages 36-39 **categorizing**

Gather old magazines or catalogs that have pictures of babies. Have students select and cut out pictures and try to decide the baby's age. Glue the pictures on large sheets of paper under headings of One Month, Two Months, etc. Discuss what babies can do at each age.

The Option Package, pages 40 **sharing and caringJ**

As a class, find picture books or magazine stories about the birth of a pet. Try fiction and/or non-fiction. Read some together and then arrange to read good ones to younger students in school. A visit to another classroom or having another class come to your room might work best.

Answers, pages 20-23

Circle all except "hair color" and "right or left handedness"

Answers, pages 26-31

- __1__ One or more eggs is removed from a patient.

__2__ Eggs are washed and put in a medium to keep it similar to when it is in a patient's body.

__3__ Five or six eggs are put together with 100,000-150,000 sperm.

__4__ The sperm attaches itself to an egg after breaking up the jelly-like cells around the egg.

__5__ The fertilized egg grows into many cells called an embryo.

__6__ The embryo is placed into a woman's uterus.