

# Knowledge and skills catcher: Human timeline

Below is some data showing the average life spans and gestation periods of some different mammals.

Animal	Average lifespan (years)	Gestation period (days)
Mouse	2	25
Grey squirrel	6	44
Fox	10	52
Cat	14	62
Horse	20	337
Giraffe	25	450
African elephant	60	640
Human	75	267

1 What is a gestation period?

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2 What is the overall pattern between the lifespan and the gestation period?

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3 Which one does not fit the pattern and how can you tell?

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How long would you predict the gestation period to be for a dog that has an average lifespan of 12 years? Why?

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Describe one way a human changes from birth to adulthood and explain why this change is useful.

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