

## CHAPTER ONE: The Start of Life

How \_\_\_\_ life \_\_\_\_ (start)? \_\_\_\_ (be) it the same for people and animals?

Some animals, like birds and alligators, \_\_\_\_ (start) life inside an egg. But many animals \_\_\_\_ (carry) their babies in their bodies.

For the first nine months before humans \_\_\_\_ (be) born, they \_\_\_\_ (grow) inside their mothers. Baby cats \_\_\_\_ (be) inside their mothers for only two months. A female lion \_\_\_\_ (carry) her baby for about four months. And an elephant \_\_\_\_ (be) inside its mother for 22 months.

The mother usually \_\_\_\_ (be) the most important parent. The baby \_\_\_\_ (be) safe inside her. It \_\_\_\_ (take) food from her. The mother often \_\_\_\_ (look) after the baby after it \_\_\_\_ (be) born, too.

But sometimes the father \_\_\_\_ (be) more important. For example, the female seahorse \_\_\_\_ (put) as many as 1,500 eggs in the male seahorse's body. The father then \_\_\_\_ (carry) the eggs for two to four weeks. The eggs \_\_\_\_ (get) food from his body until they \_\_\_\_ (hatch). Now the baby seahorse \_\_\_\_ (can) look after itself. Dad's job \_\_\_\_ (finish)!

The male sea catfish \_\_\_\_ (be) important, too. After the female \_\_\_\_ (put) her eggs on the sea floor, the male \_\_\_\_ (take) them in his mouth. And they \_\_\_\_ (stay) there for about two months. Then, the eggs \_\_\_\_ (hatch), and the baby fish \_\_\_\_ (swim) out to start their lives.