**Science – Week 6 – Gestation Periods**

A **gestation period** is the scientific word for when an animal or human is **pregnant** – the time from conception until birth of the baby or young animal.

A new life begins as a foetus grows inside the female’s womb. Pregnancy for humans normally lasts around 9 months.

The foetus gets it’s nutrients from its mother.

It starts when a sperm cell (from a male) and an egg cell (from a female) combine.

Sometimes, two babies grow at the same time – they are called twins.

This video shows the stages of a baby growing from fertilisation to birth:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/zpmqxnb>



**Task 1: Find out how long each of these animals are pregnant for, how many young that animal would normally give birth to, what their young are called, and how long that animal would typically live for.**

**Use the grid below or create your own.**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Animal Name** | **Gestation Period** | **Average Number of Young Per Pregnancy** | **Name of Young** | **Average Lifespan of the Animal** |
| **Chimpanzee**16 amazing facts about chimpanzees - Discover Wildlife |  |  |  |  |
| **Dog**Diet of a Golden Retriever | zooplus Magazine |  |  |  |  |
| **African Elephant**Status Check for African Elephants | NRDC |  |  |  |  |
| **Domestic Cat**How dangerous can domestic cats be? — The Association of ... |  |  |  |  |
| **Cow**Does chocolate milk contain cow's blood? |  |  |  |  |
| **House Mouse**House mouse - Wikipedia |  |  |  |  |
| **Human**Smiling Is Powerful Medicine: Research on How Smiling Can Improve ... |  |  |  |  |

**Take a picture of your findings for your teacher on Class Dojo!**

**Task 2: Interpret your findings.**

You will need your completed grid from task 1. Plot your findings in a bar chart, using the gestation periods of your animals. Give your bar chart a suitable title.

**Gestation Period**

If you don’t have squared paper, try your best with a pencil and ruler on plain paper.

**You may colour in your bars when finished.**

**Animal Name**

**Take a picture of your bar chart for your teacher on Class Dojo!**