Name:_____

Round and Round Life Cycle Wheel



Materials:

- 2 paper plates (or circles of cardstock) per student
- 1 brass fastener (brad) per student
- Scissors, markers, and colored pencils

The Setup:

1. Prepare the "Cover" Plate: Have students take one paper plate and carefully cut out a single "pie slice" (about one-fourth of the plate). On the remaining space, they can write their title: [My Name]'s Life Cycle Wheel.
2. Divide the "Base" Plate: On the second paper plate, have students use a marker to draw a giant "X" across the middle, dividing it into four equal pie slices (quadrants).

The Activity:

1. Choose a Subject: Ask students to choose either the Sunflower or the Frog from the reading passage.

2. Illustrate the Stages (Clockwise): In the four quadrants of their base plate, students must draw the four stages of their chosen organism in order. They must use the text to find the exact details:

Sunflower:

- Slice 1: Seed (draw it underground with water/sun/air).
- Slice 2: Sprout/Germinate (draw roots going down, stem going up).
- Slice 3: Seedling (draw small plant with green leaves).
- Slice 4: Adult Plant (draw bright flowers and new seeds falling).

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Frog:

- Slice 1: Eggs (draw jelly-like eggs in water).
- Slice 2: Tadpole (draw in water with gills and long tail).
- Slice 3: Froglet (draw back/front legs sprouting, shrinking tail).
- Slice 4: Adult Frog (draw on land, breathing air with lungs).

3. Label with Text Evidence: Have students label each slice using at least one "fancy science word" from the text (e.g., germinate, nutrients, metamorphosis, amphibian).

4. Assemble and Spin: Place the cover plate over the base plate and push a brass fastener through the center of both. Students can now spin the bottom plate to reveal one stage at a time through the cutout window, watching the cycle repeat infinitely.

Partner Share (Wrap Up):

Pair up a "Sunflower" student with a "Frog" student. Have them spin their wheels for each other and explain the biggest difference between how their two organisms grow (gradual growth vs. complete metamorphosis).

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