

Reproduction methods

The following are patterns that scientists have observed about reproduction in some animals:

- Oysters release millions of eggs and sperm into the water and fertilisation occurs in the sea.
- The female mallard duck makes a nest and lays 9-11 fertilised eggs in it.
- The female elephant is usually pregnant for 22 months, and then gives birth to a single calf.

a) Why do oysters release such large numbers of eggs?

b) What is the advantage of having the elephant calf develop inside the mother before being born?

c) Why do many birds, like the mallard duck, lay eggs in groups?

d) In which of the above animals does external fertilisation of the egg occur?
