

A Blackbird's Life Cycle



Male blackbird

Female blackbird

The adult male and female blackbirds meet up and mate. The female builds a nest from grass and twigs.

The female blackbird lays her **eggs** inside a nest.



Egg

Nest

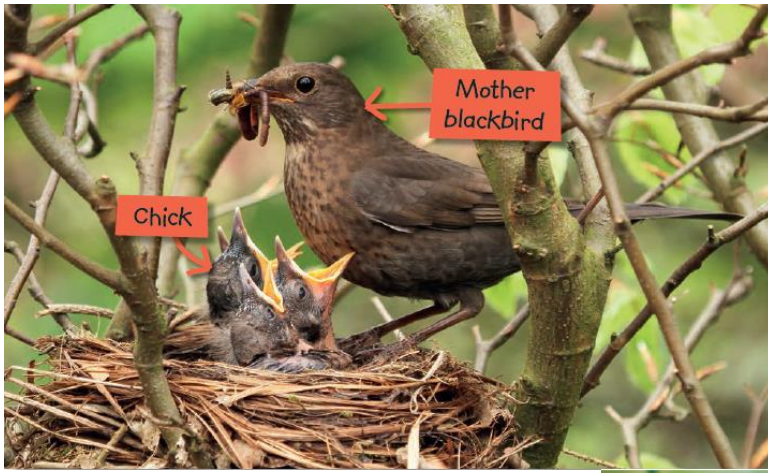


The female blackbird sits on her eggs to keep them warm.

After two weeks, chicks hatch from the eggs. They cannot yet leave the nest. They are called **nestlings**.

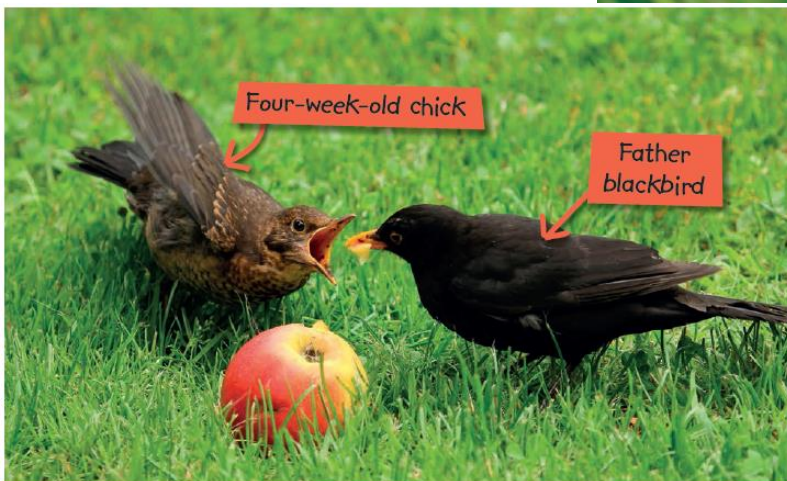


Chick



The parent blackbirds catch worms and insects for the chicks to eat.

After 14 days, the chicks grow wings and learn to fly. They can leave the nest. The chicks are now called **fledglings**.

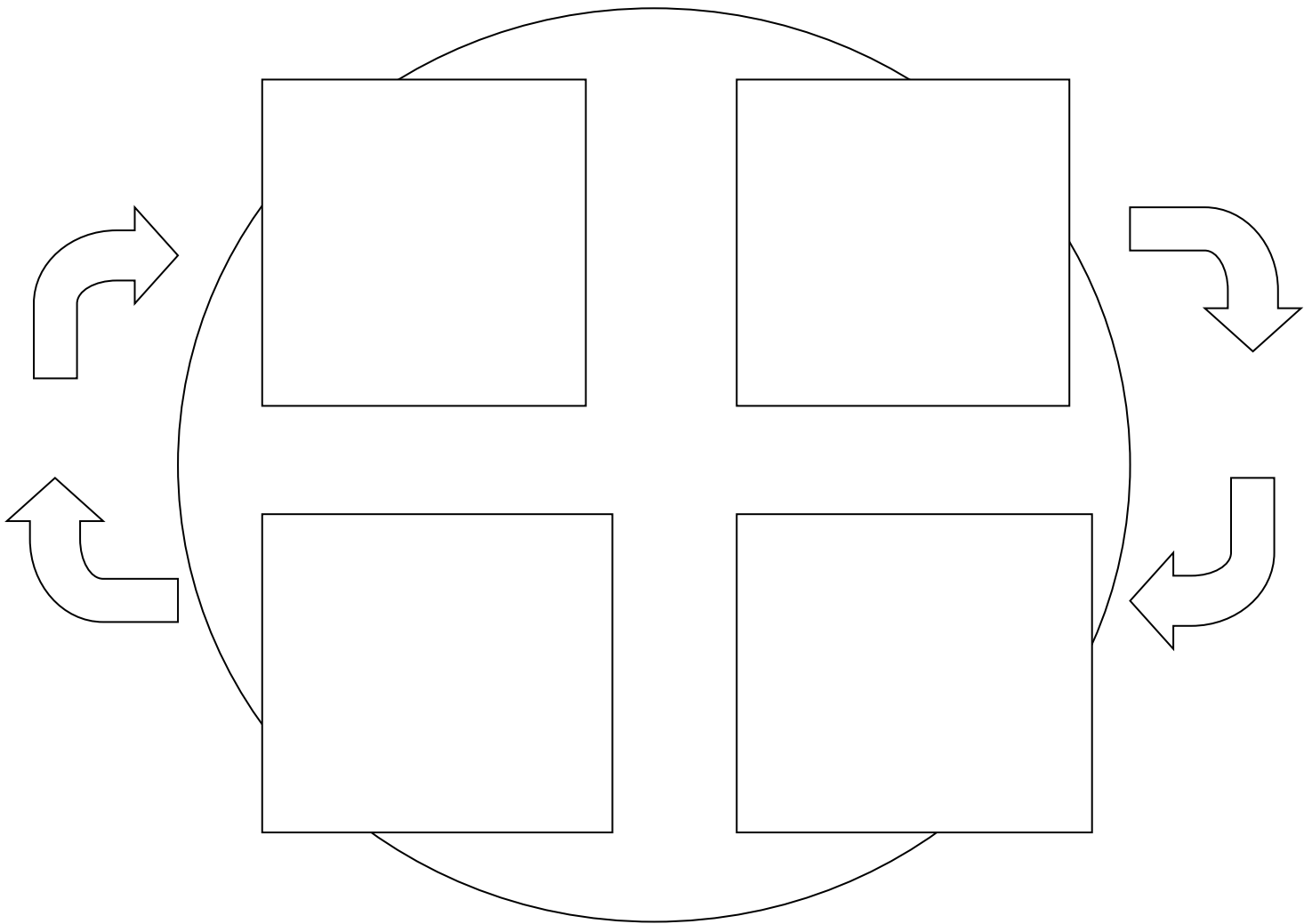


Chicks live with their parents until they are 6 weeks old.

When blackbirds are 1 year old they are ready to have chicks of their own and are called **adult blackbirds**.



What do you think are the **four most important stages** in the life cycle of a blackbird? Draw and label the diagram below with the four stages.

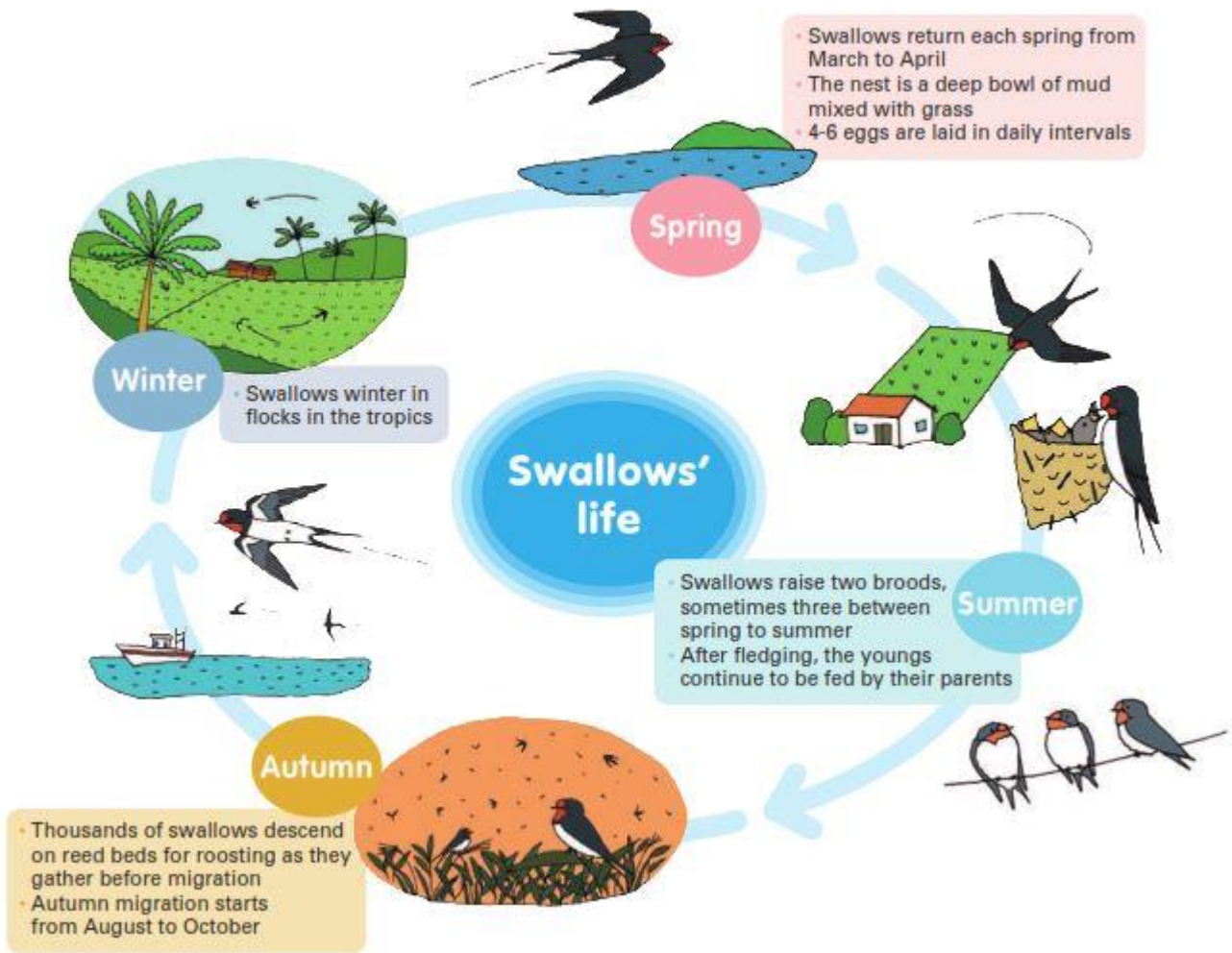


The Four Stages of the Blackbird Life Cycle

I hope one of the stages you included was that the bird lay eggs! Laying eggs is an important stage in the life cycle of a bird. Watch the videos below to find out more about how birds lay eggs.

[Life of Birds](#) egg laying from the BBC.

Some birds also **migrate**. Read about the swallow - they mate in the northern hemisphere (including Britain) and fly south in winter to South Africa, crossing the dangerous Sahara desert. Then they return to the northern hemisphere to mate again in spring. **Migration** usually happens because the birds cannot find enough food in one place all year round due to changes in the different seasons.



Challenge



Can you find out about the migration of the Arctic tern? What is so special about the migration of the Arctic tern? Find out, by using the weblinks below, and when you do, email your teacher and let her/him know!

[Bird Migration](#) from DK Find Out!

[Arctic Tern](#) from DK Find Out!

[Arctic Tern Facts](#) from Kiddle