

RE-VIEW

Video: Bird Buffet

*Sequence Nonfiction Text Structure
(life cycle)*

Sam's grandma has her interested in bird watching. Due to her love of birds, Sam gets her grandmother a new birdfeeder each year for her birthday. While shopping for the perfect hummingbird feeder, Sam finds a magazine all about hummingbirds and decides to add that to her gift. As she skims the pages, she finds an article about hummingbirds that she wants to share with Josh. As she reads, learns about the North American Ruby-Throated Hummingbird. She also notices that this article is a wonderful example of life cycle Sequence Nonfiction Text Structure.

Now it's **Your Turn!** Read *Life Cycle of the North American Ruby-Throated Hummingbird* and create your own *Think Aloud* and Graphic Organizer.

Then compare your thinking with [Sam's Think Aloud and her Graphic Organizer](#).



Before You Read:

Think about what you may already know about hummingbirds. Think about what you've learned about sequencing information. Remember that Sequence Nonfiction Text Structure is what authors use to put events in order, such as describing a life cycle, telling about something in chronological order, or providing a set of steps or directions.

While You Read:

Notice signal words that can help you determine the order of the events. You may want to highlight signal words in blue and the events in green. (You may use any colors available to you – just remember your color scheme!)

After You Read:

- Think about how you would “Sequence the life cycle of a hummingbird.”
- Think about the video you just watched. Sam shared how she made sense of the passage *Life Cycle of the Ruby-Throated Hummingbird*. Create your own *Think Aloud*. Share how you made sense of this passage, too.

Life Cycle of the North American Ruby-Throated Hummingbird

The North American Ruby-throated hummingbird is a tiny powerhouse of energy, beauty, and athletic ability. With its wings whirring, it is able to hover mid-air, fly backwards, sideways and even upside down!

The life cycle of this super pollinator begins in a soft, warm nest the size of a ping-pong ball. First, the female hummingbird lays its eggs. The eggs are the size of a large pea, and there are usually two, which hatch after 12 to 14 days.



Once hatched, the penny-sized nestlings will spend about three weeks in the nest with their mother. They'll strengthen their wings for flight by flapping them quickly. Then, the fledgling hummingbirds leave the nest for short practice flights. Flying comes naturally for the hummingbird but landing is trickier! The fledglings will remain in the area of the nest for up to 20 days.

Because of its high metabolism, the young hummingbird's main drive is to lap nectar and eat small insects throughout the day. If a hummingbird survives the perils of its first year, the average life span is three to five years. There have been instances, however, of some hummingbirds living as long as 10 to 12 years.

Hormonal changes triggered by decreasing seasonal sunlight cause them to migrate to Mexico and Central America for the winter. The following spring after hatching, hummingbirds are considered to be fully mature adults. They return to the U.S. to build their own nests just in time to find the flowers in full bloom. The life cycle begins again with the newly hatched hummingbird.



Create a Graphic Organizer:

After you have determined the life cycle sequence of the hummingbird, create a graphic organizer below to represent your thinking and to help you remember the author's main points.



Compare your Think Aloud with Sam's Think Aloud:

Sam's Think Aloud: As I read the title and see the words "life cycle" it confirms that I'm going to read and learn about the *life cycle* of the hummingbird. I see the word, "First" which signals this is going to be the *first* thing that happens. When I read that the female hummingbird lays her eggs and they hatch two weeks later, I think, "That makes sense!" This is where the *life cycle starts*. I'm going to draw a *cycle graphic organizer* to record my thinking. It's like a circle that goes around and around. I read in another book that all animals go through a set of changes called a "life cycle." First, they are born or they hatch from eggs. Then they grow and change into adults when they can have their own babies. A new life cycle begins when the baby is born or hatched from an egg. This is different from "life span," which is the length of time an animal is alive. A line segment, with a definite starting and stopping point, best represents "life span."

Back to my cycle map. I create my first entry, "Two pea-sized eggs are laid in ping-pong sized nest that hatch in 12-14 days." From the *signal words*, "once hatched," I understand that I'll read about the *next* event. The penny-sized nestlings spend three weeks in the nest with their mother. I know that the word, "Then" signals the next entry. The fledgling hummingbirds practice their flying, remaining near the nest for the next 20 days. The next major event in the life cycle of the hummingbird is its migration to Mexico in winter. I know that when an author uses a seasonal word such as "winter," it provides me with information about when an event happens. From the *signal words* "following spring after hatching," I understand when the adult hummingbirds return to build their own nests and the life cycle begins again with the newly hatched hummingbird.

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The **life cycle** of this super pollinator begins in a **soft, warm nest the size of a ping-pong ball. First, the female hummingbird lays its eggs. The eggs are the size of a large pea, and there are usually two, which hatch after 12 to 14 days.**



Once hatched, the penny-sized nestlings will spend about three weeks in the nest with their mother. They'll strengthen their wings for flight by flapping them quickly. **Then, the fledgling hummingbirds leave the nest for short practice flights.** Flying comes naturally for the hummingbird but landing is trickier! **The fledglings will remain in the area of the nest for up to 20 days.**

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Compare your Graphic Organizer with Sam's Graphic Organizer:

Sam's Graphic Organizer: "Because the author is sequencing the life cycle of the hummingbird, I am going to create a life cycle graphic organizer to record the events."

Questions to Think About:

- How do *signal words* help Sam make sense of the text?
- How does the *Life Cycle Graphic Organizer* help Sam sequence the important ideas?
- Why might this process help you make sense of text?
- When might this process be useful?

