

# Baby Animals

Exhibition  
July 2021

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## **«Baby Animals», the only temporary exhibition in Barcelona for children aged 3 to 8**

The Natural Science Museum of Barcelona presents «**Baby Animals**», a temporary exhibition for children aged 3 to 8 about baby animals, from the time of their birth until they become independent. With its brightly coloured design and appealing materials, the exhibition is like an adventure playground with lots of physical and sensory games and multimedia activities that invite you to touch, feel, imitate, observe, get excited about and marvel at baby animals. The aim of the exhibition is to introduce children to simple notions of biology and animal behaviour, encouraging them to compare themselves and become aware of their own development.

Along the route, which is divided into six stages —**Birth, Threats & Protection, Learning, Vital Functions, Development and Independence**— are **100** specimens of **60** species in natural, dynamic poses, as well as **interactive experiments, multimedia and audiovisual activities with both real images and animation** that explain, at a suitable physical and intellectual level for children, real stories and unusual anecdotes regarding animal development.

From the 0 seconds a turtle needs to become independent to the 18 years it takes a human, there's a huge number of different ways to develop and lots of curious anecdotes, all explained by the exhibition at two reading levels. For non-readers, there are illustrated comic strips in the form of posters so young children can visit the exhibition independently, but there are also texts for older children and the adults accompanying them.

In designing «Baby Animals», the museologists were assisted by several schools to analyse, test and validate the exhibition's content, shapes, colours, games and multimedia with children aged 3 to 8.

Co-produced by the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences and the Natural History Museum of Toulouse, «Baby Animals» was already a great success in Brussels, Toulouse and Paris before arriving in Barcelona this summer.

Duration of the exhibition: from 7 July 2021 to 8 May 2022

**All the animals died from natural causes. No animals were harmed to produce the exhibition.**

## **Exhibition areas**

The exhibition is divided into six stages: **Birth, Threats & Protection, Learning, Vital Functions, Development and Independence.**

### **1. Birth**

Who hatches from an egg and who comes out of a womb? Who's born alone and who's born surrounded by their father and mother? Who's born in a cosy nest, in the shelter of a burrow, directly on the ground or under water? Who comes into the world surrounded by brothers and sisters? Who makes the nest; the mother, father or both? Are baby animals born covered with fur or feathers? A mother hippopotamus brings her baby into the world in the water. Before sticking its nose above the surface, this large mammal's baby begins to suckle underwater!

**Audiovisual** of real images showing the birth of fish, birds, mammals and insects.

#### **Interactive experiments proposed**

**a/** Move like the father toad who walks with the eggs on his back.

**b/** Build a nest.

**c/** Recognise who comes out of an egg and who comes from a womb using a digital card game.

**Audiovisual animation where children discover the number of offspring born for different animal species.** Are pandas, frogs, tigers, ducks or seahorses born alone or together with lots of brothers and sisters?

## **2. Threats & Protection**

Can small animals protect themselves or do they need help? Which need to camouflage themselves to avoid being another animal's food? Some animals are well protected by the herd, their parents and the community. While others have to fend for themselves from the moment they're born. A baby snake has no parents to protect it. If it feels threatened, it tries to intimidate the intruder by blowing and whistling noisily. If that doesn't work, it moves away quickly.

### **Interactive experiments**

**a/** Throw the baby kangaroo into the mother's pouch.

**b/** Use a poncho to camouflage yourself and go unseen, like seals and antelopes in their environment.

**Animated audiovisual in which children can choose stories about the threats and protection for different animals.** There are numerous threats to baby animals. Are baby foxes, hamsters, turtles or fawns ever cold or hungry? Which animals need to camouflage themselves to avoid falling prey to another animal? The cuckoo lays its eggs in other birds' nests and leaves it up to the adoptive parents to raise its young, thereby having a better chance of survival. How do animal parents protect their offspring? A penguin, for example, benefits from the protection of both parents while baby bats are looked after by other mothers in a kind of nursery.

**Multimedia activity.** Children can choose from three possible scenarios. For example, what could happen to a turtle when it comes out of its egg and heads for the sea without the protection of its parents?

**a/** It might be eaten by a gull.

**b/** It might reach the water.

**c/** It might return to its hole armed with a helmet and pick to build itself a tunnel to the sea...

### **3. Learning**

How do baby animals learn? Through play? By imitating? By following their instinct? As they play, lion cubs are learning to hunt; it's by playing with each other that they learn how to run fast, keep their balance and use their paws skilfully.

#### **Interactive experiments**

**a/** Test your own balance

**b/** Imitate other animals and make faces the other children and visitors can see on a large screen.

**Audiovisual about animal instinct [with real images].** Some babies know what to do from the moment they're born whilst others need more time. Young gorillas take quite a few years to learn, guided mostly by their mothers, who teach them which leaves and insects they can eat, how to sleep alone and defend themselves.

#### **4. Vital Functions**

Eating, learning how to walk, flying, swimming, recognising smells, feeling your brothers and sisters and snuggling up to them... baby animals need to do all this to survive.

##### **Interactive experiments**

- a/** Reunite the mother with her baby using olfactory clues.
- b/** Touch scales, feathers and the bare skin of a baby animal.
- c/** Crawl like a mammal.
- d/** Match each baby with the right food.

**Audiovisual on animal locomotion [with real images].** Some babies start walking as soon as they're born but others need more time.

## **5. Development**

Baby animals grow and develop in different ways. Some do it quickly, others slowly. Do they undergo a complete metamorphosis or are they tiny versions of an adult when they're born? When it comes out of the egg, a baby gull is covered with a greyish plumage and won't be the same colour as its parents until it's three years old.

### **Interactive experiment**

**a/** Put each baby animal with the right adult in a card game.



## **6. Independence**

At what point do young become independent? When they can walk, fly, eat and protect themselves on their own? A baby zebra is born directly on the grass and, unlike a human baby, can walk almost immediately.

### **Interactive experiment**

**a/** Turn a handle and find out how long it takes - from 0 days to many years - for baby animals [and humans] to become independent.

**Animated audiovisual:** some baby animals take many years to become independent whilst others are autonomous from birth. A snake has to fend for itself from the moment it comes out of the egg, feeding and protecting itself. A baby koala, on the other hand, needs a lot more time to become independent. It's born without fur, is the size of a sweet, and takes shelter in a pouch in its mother's belly. After nine months, it clings to its mother's back and starts to discover the world. Human babies depend on their parents for many years and are entirely dependent when they're born. They slowly learn to wash themselves, crawl, stand up. They grow until they're 18 years old; then it's time to cut the cord.

## **Practical information**

Duration of the exhibition: from 7 July 2021 to 8 May 2022

**Summer timetable:** March to September

Tuesday to Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 19 p.m.

Sundays and public holidays, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

**Winter timetable :** October to February

Tuesday to Friday, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Saturdays, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Sundays and public holidays, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Closed: Mondays except public holidays, 1 January, 1 May, 24 June and 25 December

Prices: €6.50

With discount: €4.50

Combined ticket for «Baby Animals» and «Planet Life»: €10.50

Combined ticket with discount: €6.50

Free admission for children under 16

For more information: [museuciencies.cat](https://museuciencies.cat)

Follow and share with the tag: **#BabyAnimalsMCNB**

## How to get there

Museum of Natural Science of Barcelona  
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08019 Barcelona Spain  
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Tel. +34 932566002

Underground L4 [Yellow Line] Stop: Maresme-Forum  
TRAMBesòs tram T4 Stop: Forum  
Bus 7, V29, V31, V31, 136, V33, B20, B23, H16  
Barcelona Tourist Bus and Barcelona City Tour  
Bicycle: nearest stop to Rambla Prim/Diagonal

## Press Department

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## **Agraïments / Agradecimientos / Remerciements / Acknowledgements**

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I gràcies, també, als equips del Museu de Ciències Naturals de Barcelona.

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Y gracias, también, a los equipos del Museo de Ciencias Naturales de Barcelona.

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And thank you to the teams at the Museum of Natural Sciences of Barcelona.

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