

Name _____

The Life Cycle of a Catfish

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Catfish lay many eggs because not all of them will survive. By laying so many, they increase the chances that some will grow into adults.
2. The juvenile stage helps catfish learn to survive by developing their features, finding food, and avoiding predators.
3. If there were no catfish to complete their life cycle, ponds and rivers might become overrun with dead plants and animals, upsetting the balance of the ecosystem.
4. Observing a catfish at each stage would be interesting because it would show how they adapt and grow, especially how fry transform into juveniles and then into adults with fully developed features.

