

## 4. LIFE CYCLE DANCE



**KEY CONCEPT**  
The inter-connectedness of life cycles.



### ~~~~~ **Holly's Story** ~~~~~

Wherever we look in life, we find a kind of cycle dance. Each day is a cycle, with the quiet of darkness and the activity of daylight, followed again by darkness. The seasons are a cycle—spring, summer, autumn, and winter. The earth revolves around the sun in an orbit. In summer, the days are warmer and longer. In winter, the weather is colder and nights are longer. The moon's monthly phases are another cycle that affects the ocean tides.

Every living thing has a cycle. A life cycle begins when you plant a pumpkin seed, and it germinates, sprouts, grows vines, leaves, flowers and fruit. Another life cycle begins when a butterfly lays an egg that hatches into a caterpillar; the caterpillar spins a cocoon and emerges as a butterfly. One of the butterflies might pollinate the flowers, and the fertilized blossoms develop into fruits bearing many seeds. When winter comes, the plant dies off, but the seeds survive into another season and the next generation begins.

Bears and eagles eat salmon. Salmon eat small fish such as herring, herring eat krill and other small creatures, and krill eat microscopic plankton. If you take one part of the food web away, the life cycles of all the other parts of the food web are affected. The salmon bodies left in the forest by bears rot and release nitrogen. The nitrogen is washed into the soil by rain, and transported to tree roots, which soak it up as food. The tree's leaves take light from the sun, absorb carbon dioxide—thus, growing new wood and leaves, and giving off oxygen. Human beings breathe oxygen and so our life cycle is interconnected with that of trees.

When you listen to *Life Cycle Dance*, you hear the names of many plants and animals? Which ones have you seen in real life, or in a picture book, or in a movie? Can you make up actions to show how the animals and plants look and move? When you make up a dance with a partner, what kinds of actions can you do together?



Vancouver Island Marmot