
Coming of Age

People, Organisation, Countries, The World.



Welcome and Introduction

- Tom, jack of all trades, unorthodox scientist, life hacker ...
(system change entrepreneur and meta systems theorist)
- astraea –
a place to put big picture ideas and share life technology, ...
- Being human is about mushroom hunting ...

The Mushroom Hunters by Neil Gaiman



Last year ...

Prepare yourself and your friends!

- Last year our exposition intended to share insights to our activities at the life laboratory here at Ballin Temple. Unexpectedly the weather contrived to curtail our transmission.
But we went with the flow ...

and helpful insights were gleaned from the conversations, summed by the realisation that events are moving so quickly now that **it is not possible to plan for the future, but we can prepare ourselves and our relationships.** And then 2020 happened!

- Today we will continue to **explore questions that might have no answer ...**

The Story of Life

Where we are.

What the future holds.

Where to begin The Story of Life?

- At the beginning ...
- BANG explosion
- Binary emergence of space-time and matter-energy.
- Existence expands through clouds of probability.

Or, as they say ...

The universe and humanity in short ...

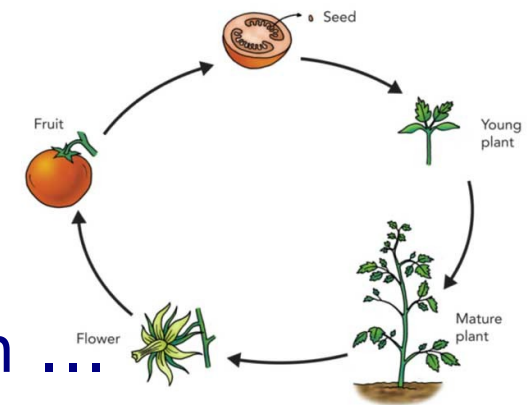
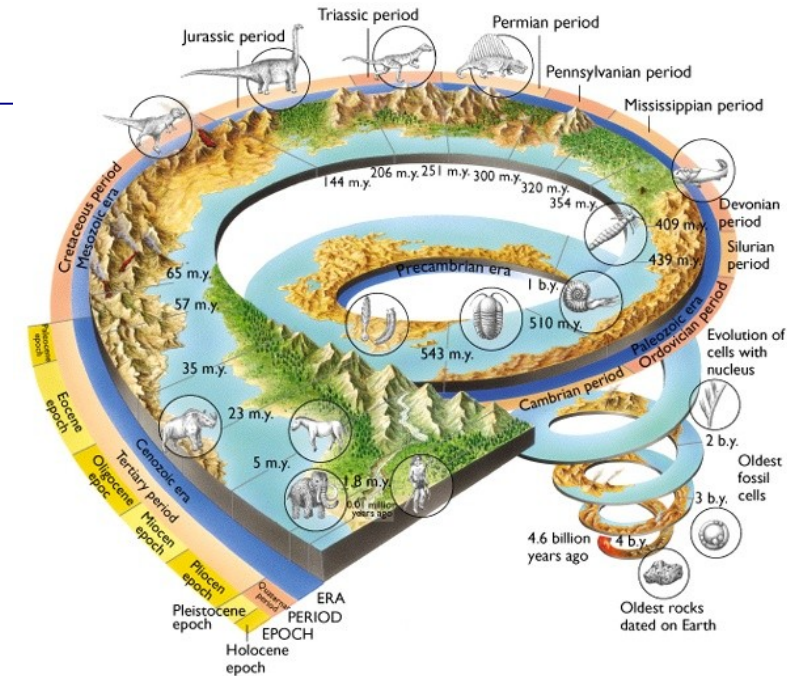
Our whole universe was in a hot dense state, then nearly fourteen billion years ago expansion

Now, let's hone in on some detail ...

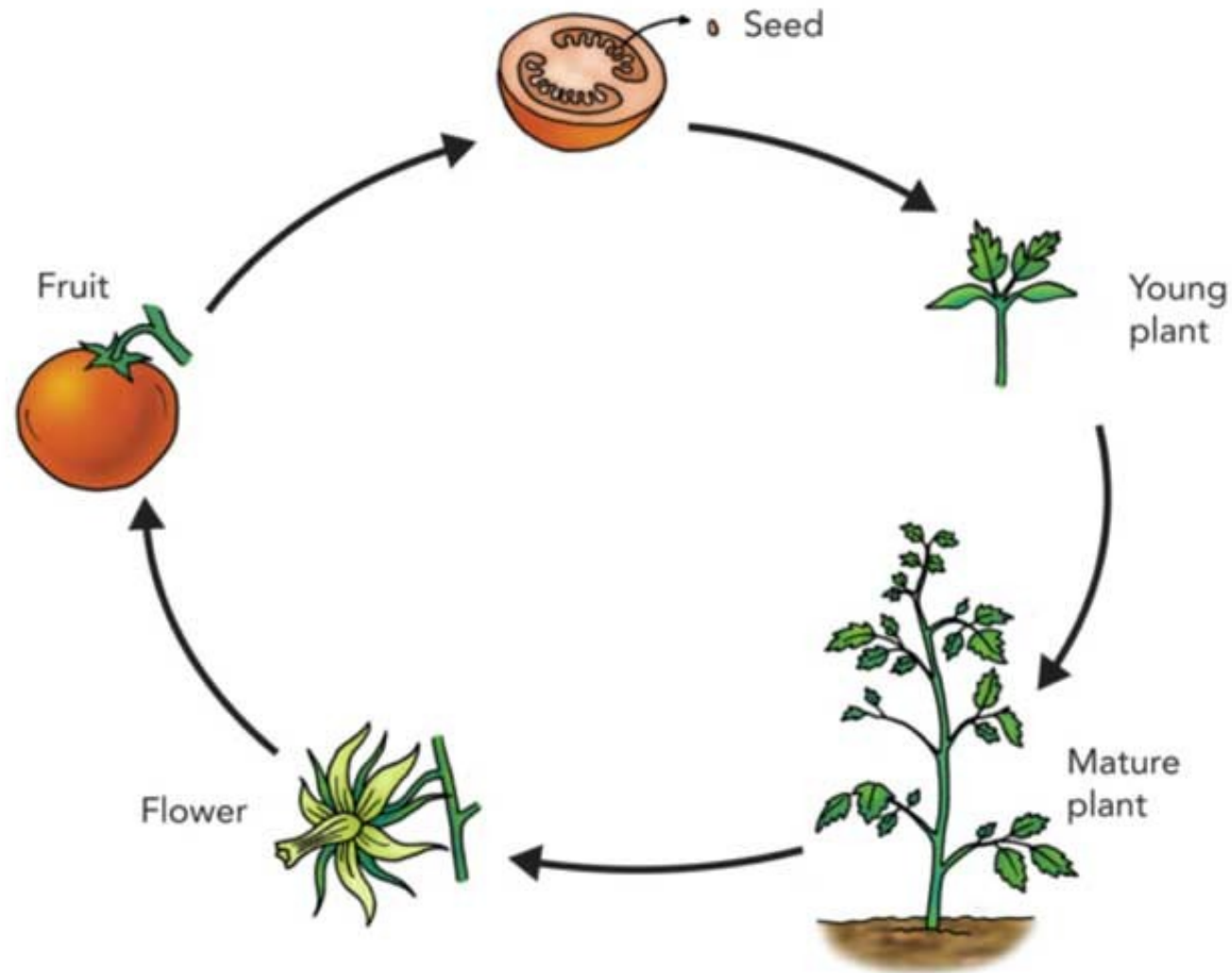
- Today is 8 December 2020 according to the Julian calendar ...
- It's a bit arbitrary but helps know where we stand in our immediate time frame.
- In the context of earth this planet earth has circled around the sun 4.54 billion times (years), and spun on it's axis 1.2 trillion times (days), since space-dust accreted to form the the third rock from the sun (and the sun).
- In our immediate time-frame it is the 21st anniversary since astraea was started.
 - An excuse to reflect ...
- And reflecting social conventions prompted us to consider life from this Coming of Age perspective .

Coming of Age

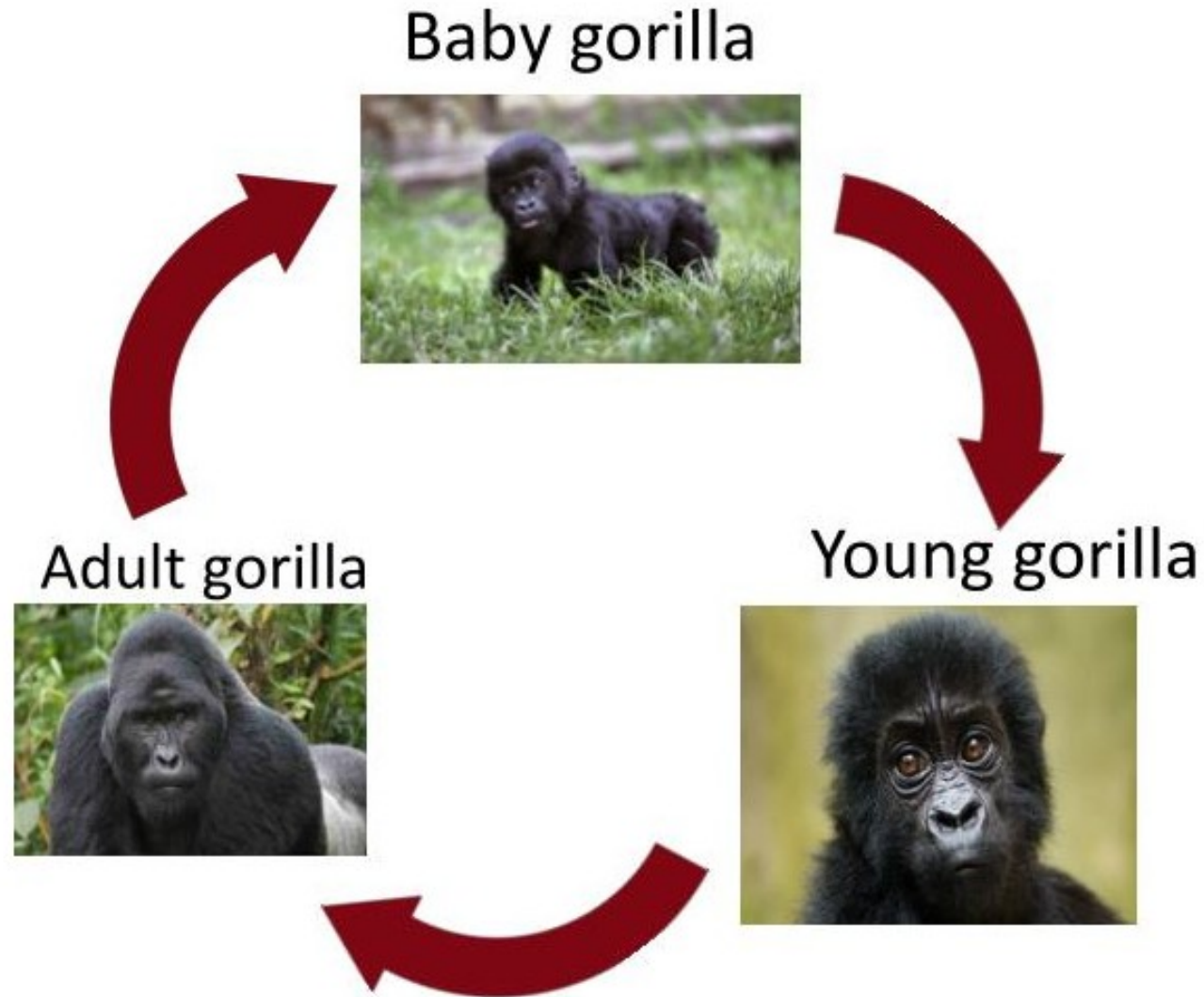
- What does it mean?
- Step back and look at The Story of Life
 - Big bang ... to now ... and beyond ...
- Patterns of life ...
- No distinct transitions, but phases that fade from one to another just as seed turns to sprout to flower and seed again ...



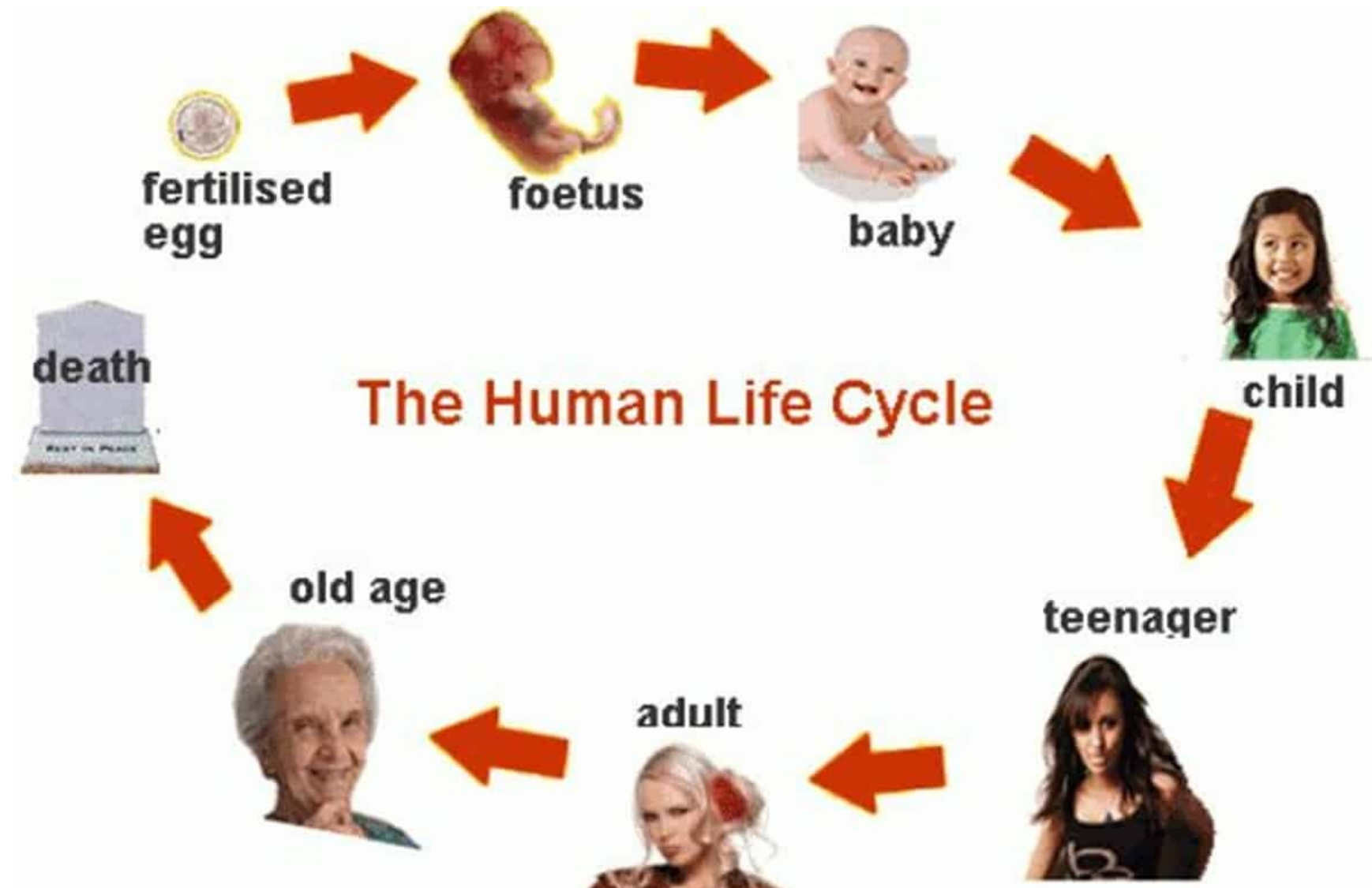
The pattern of life is simple to see in **plants**



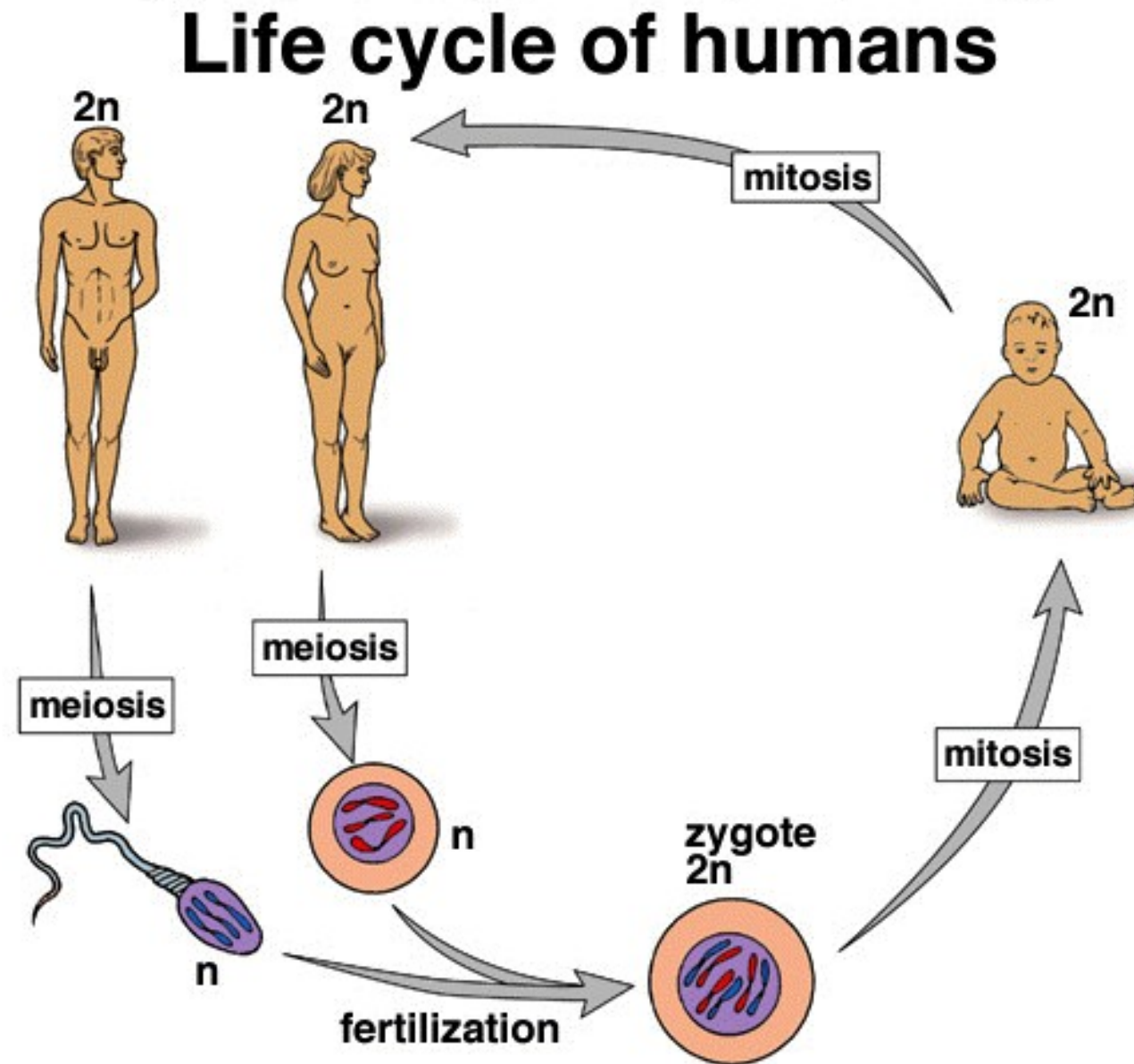
In other animals the cycle of life is clear too.



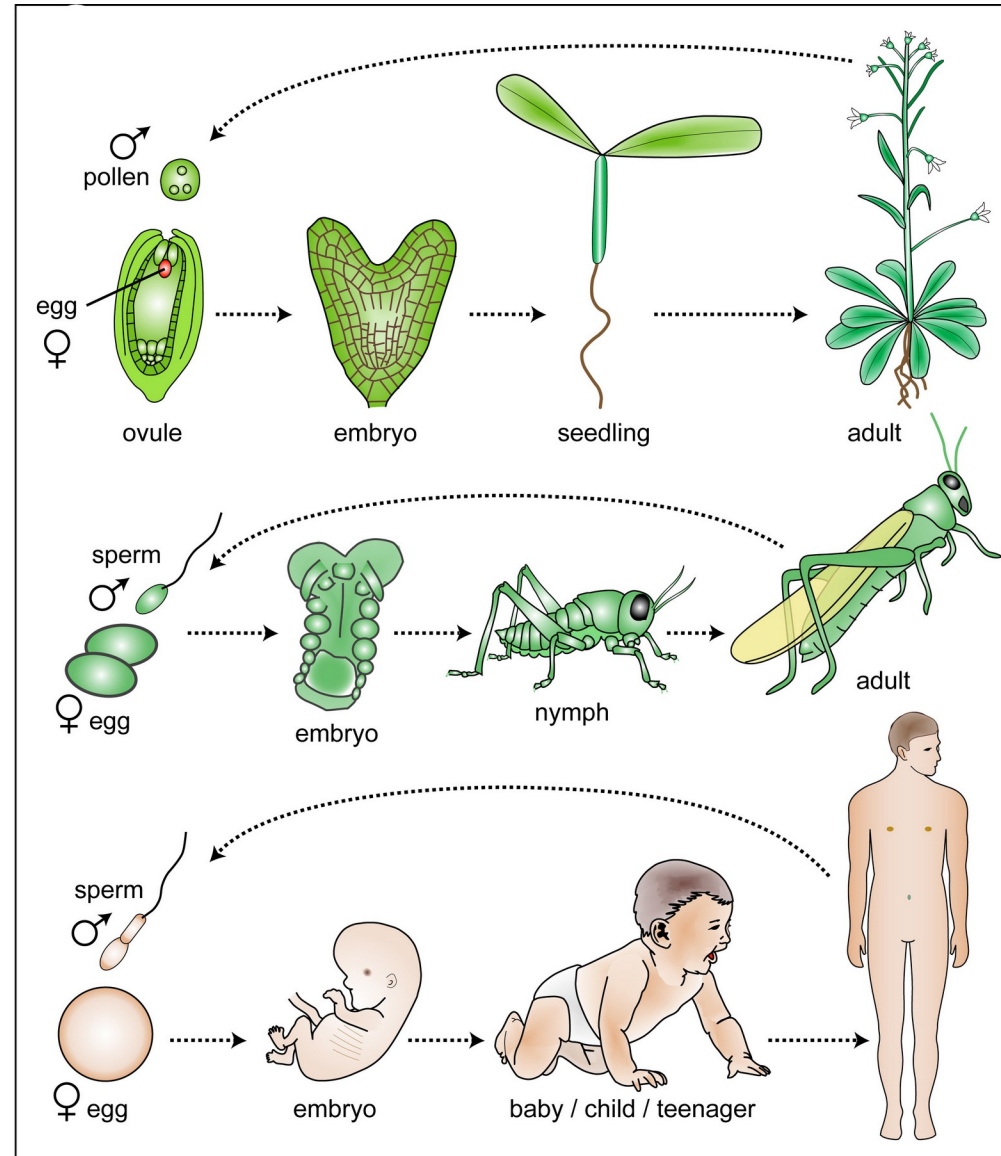
Humans seem to be the same too: baby, child, adult.



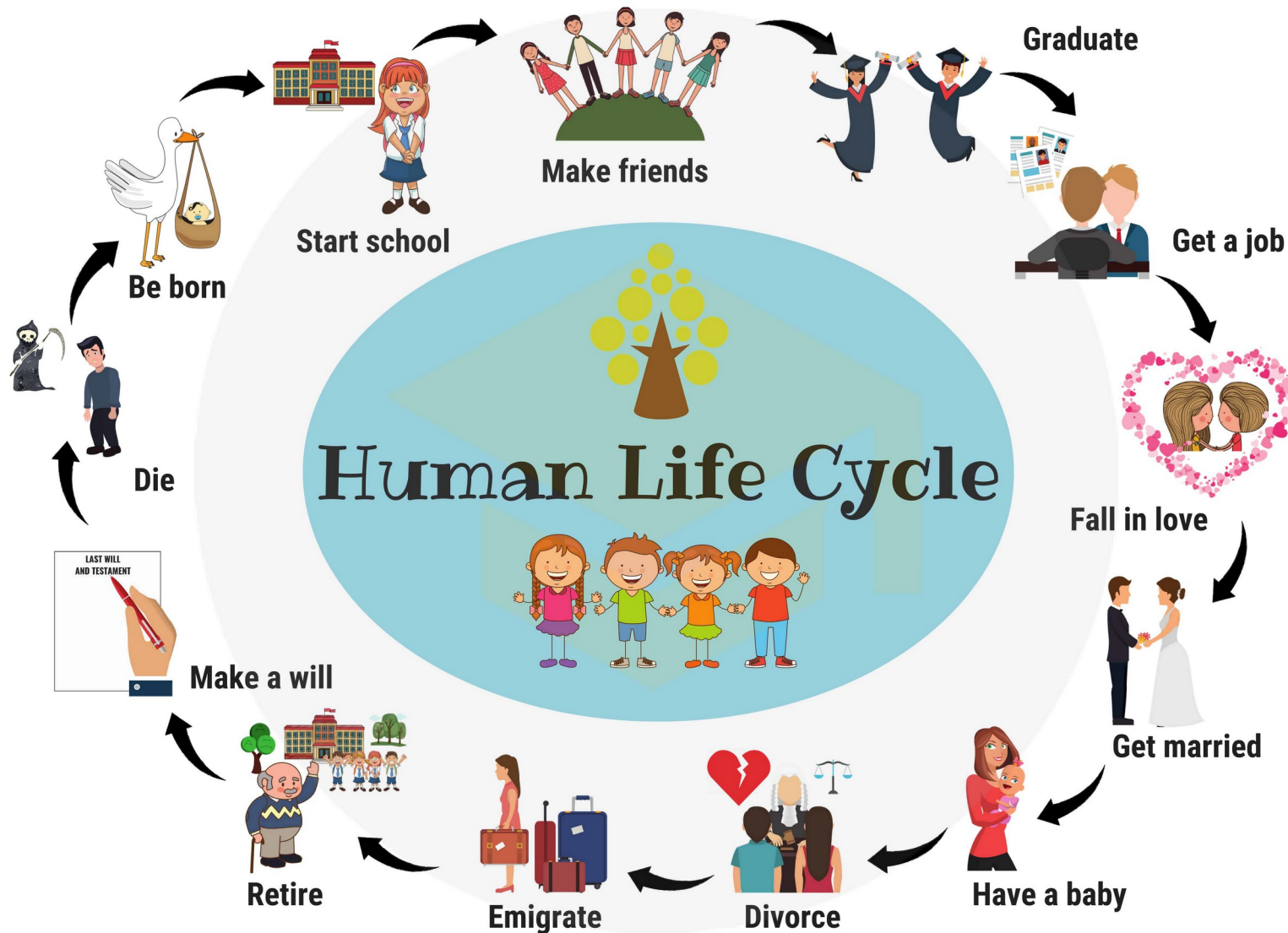
Remember! You need 2 to survive. One is not a unit.



Similar patterns in life

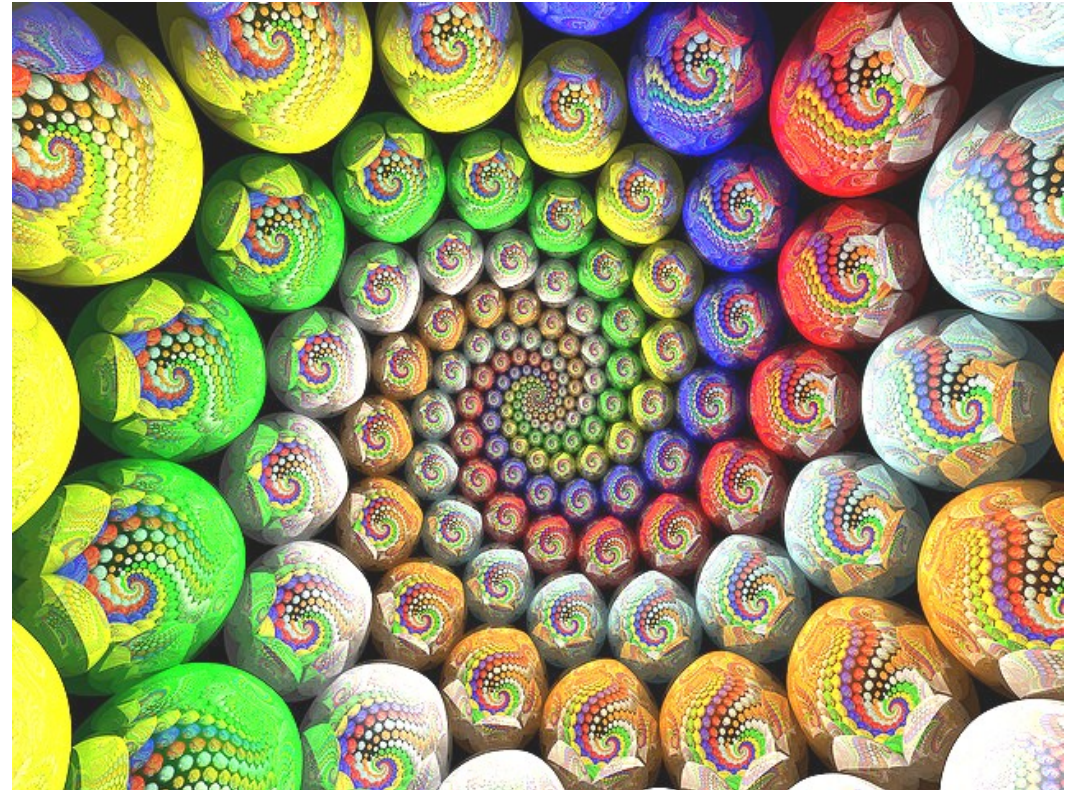


Except humans are more complicated.
Humans have virtual realities ...

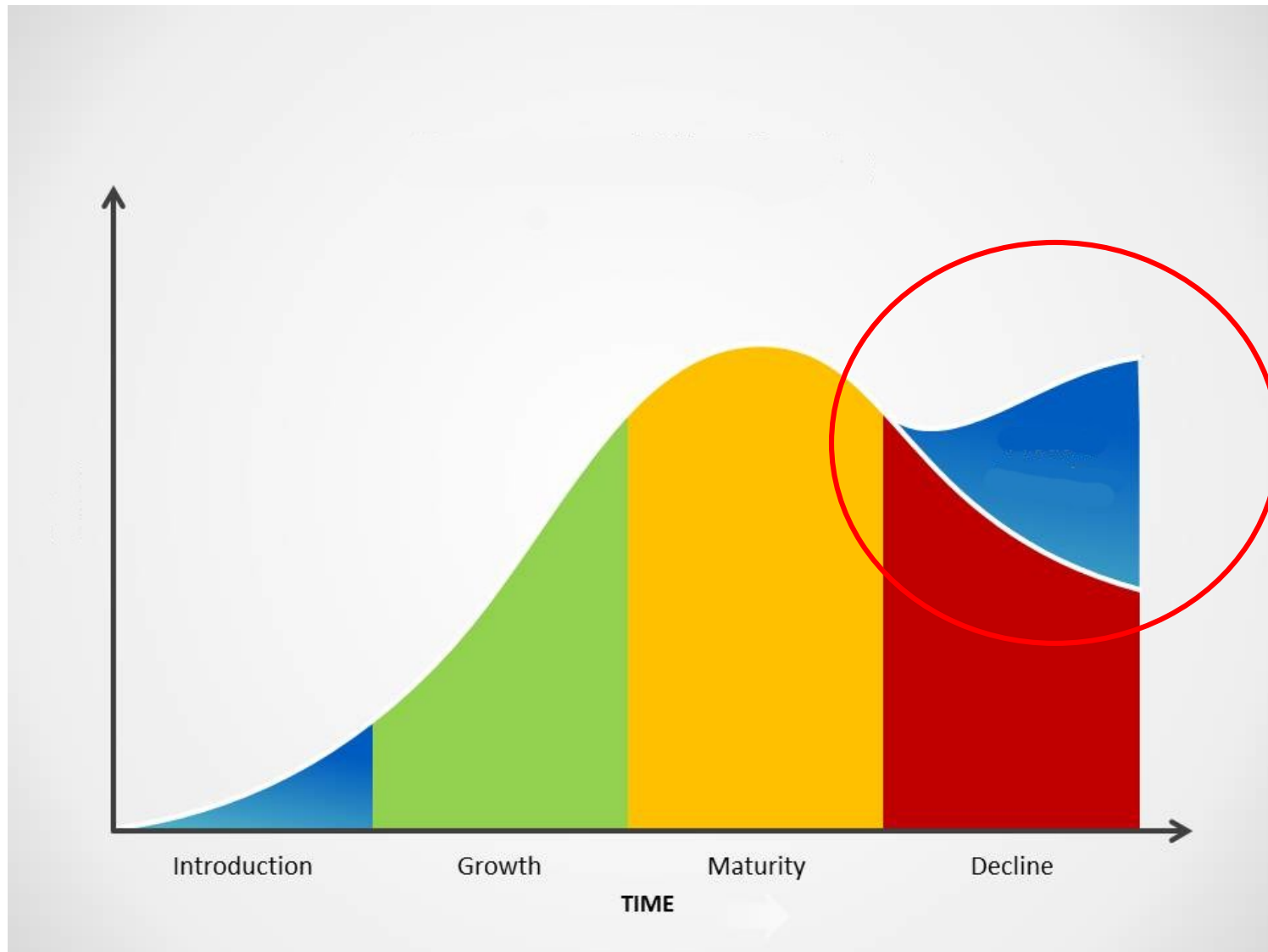


Beyond the organism, other systems have lifecycles that follow similar patterns.

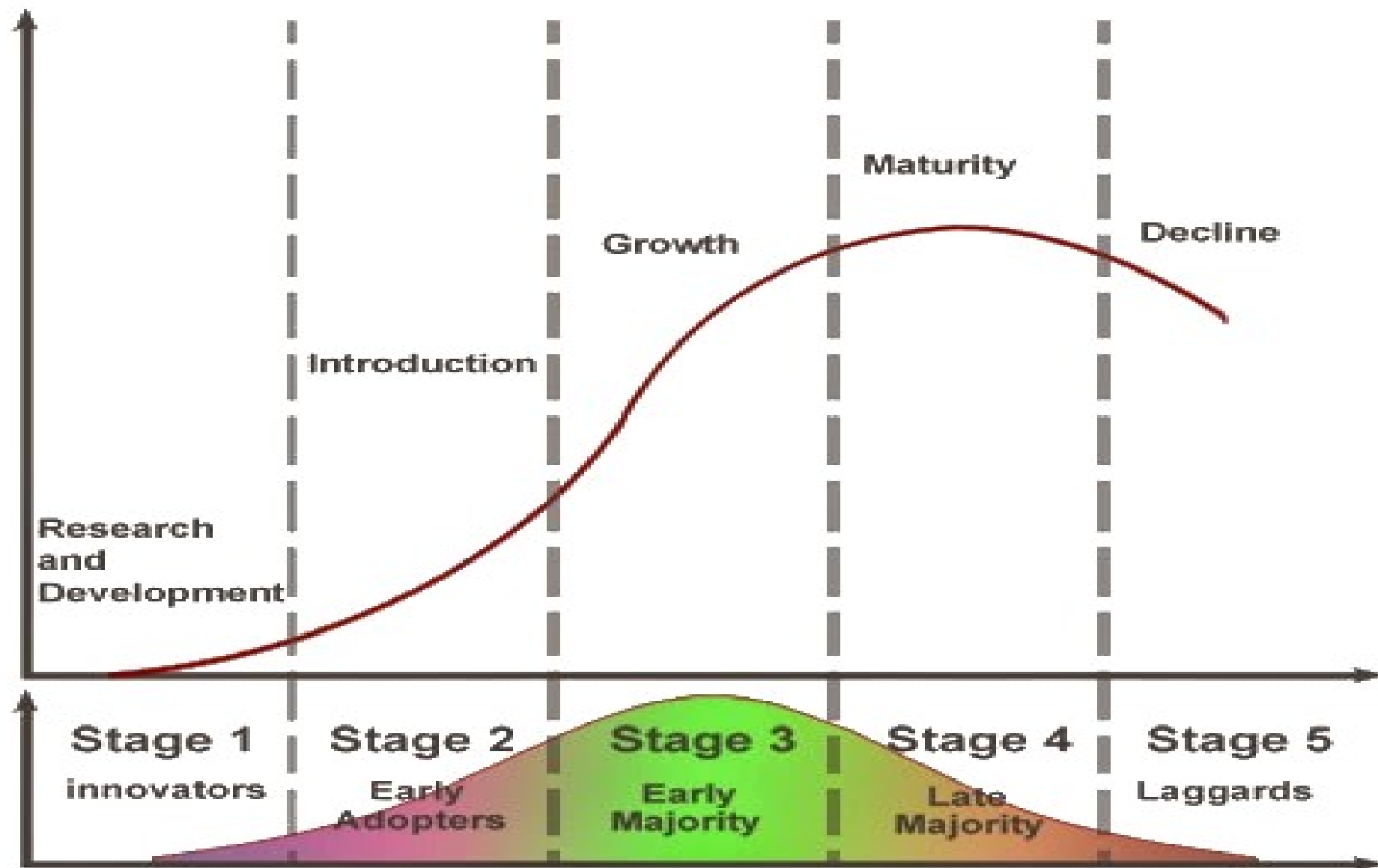
- Process/organisation
- Product/Sales
- Company/organisation
- Corporate
- Culture and communities
- Nations
- Planetary systems
- Cosmic systems



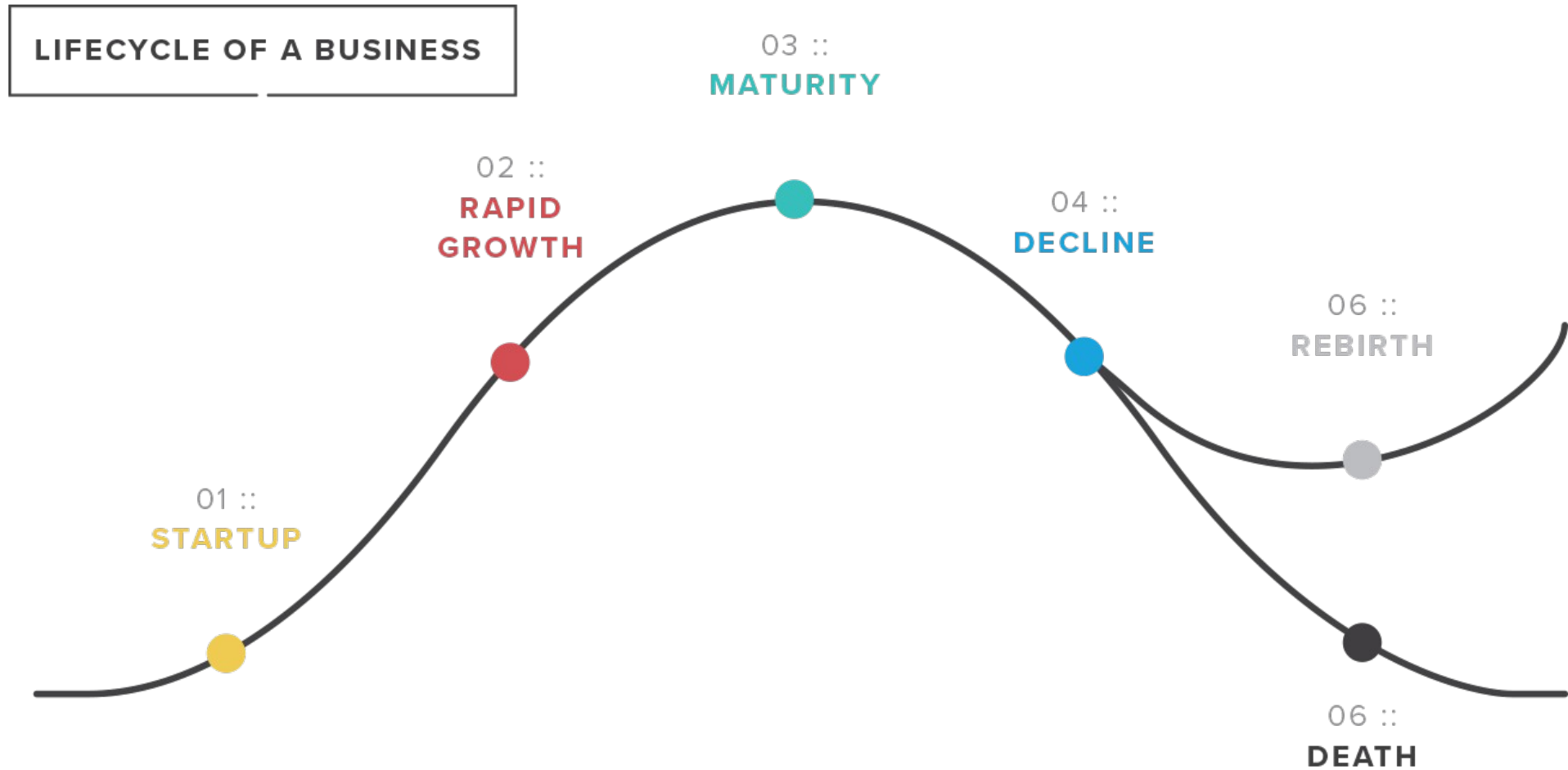
Process/Organisation cycles have similar phases



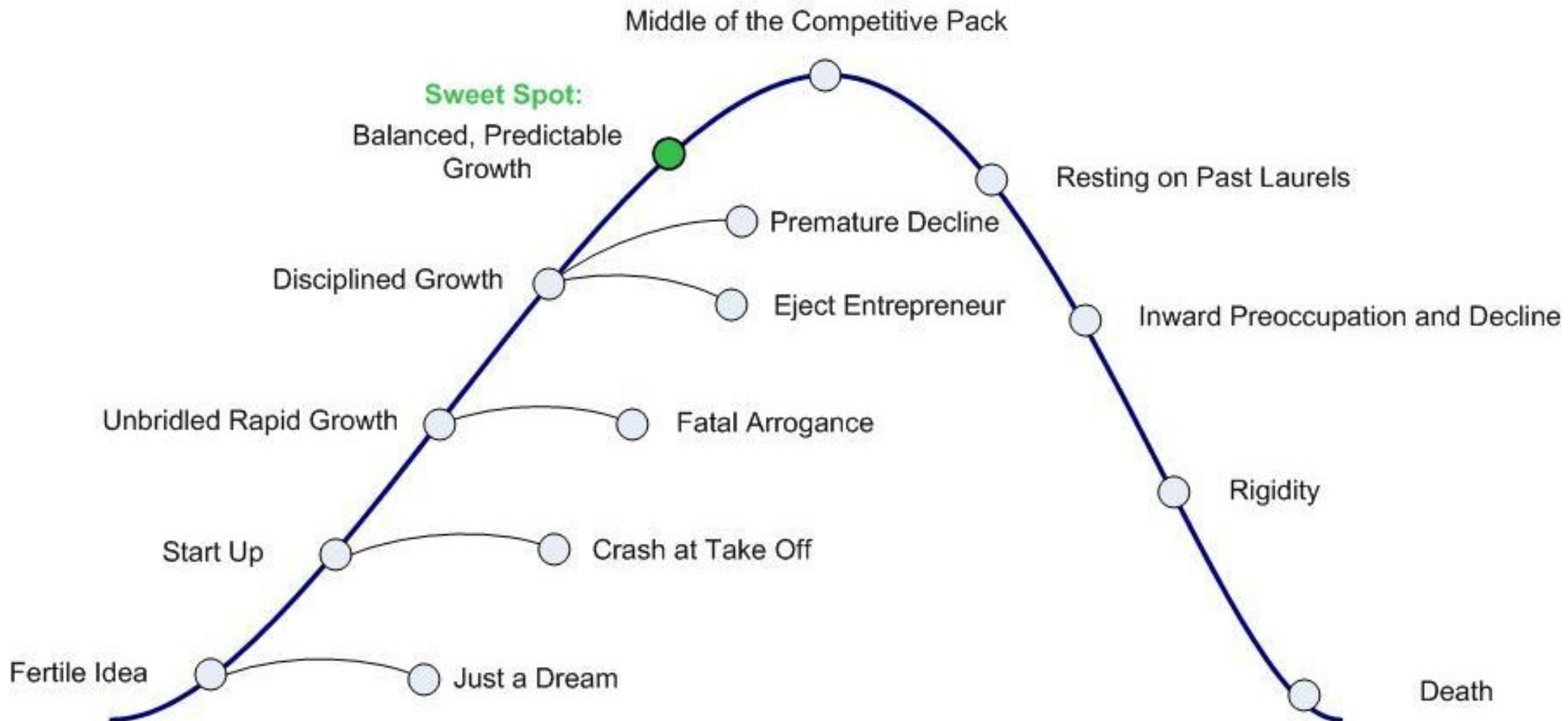
Product/Sales patterns too.



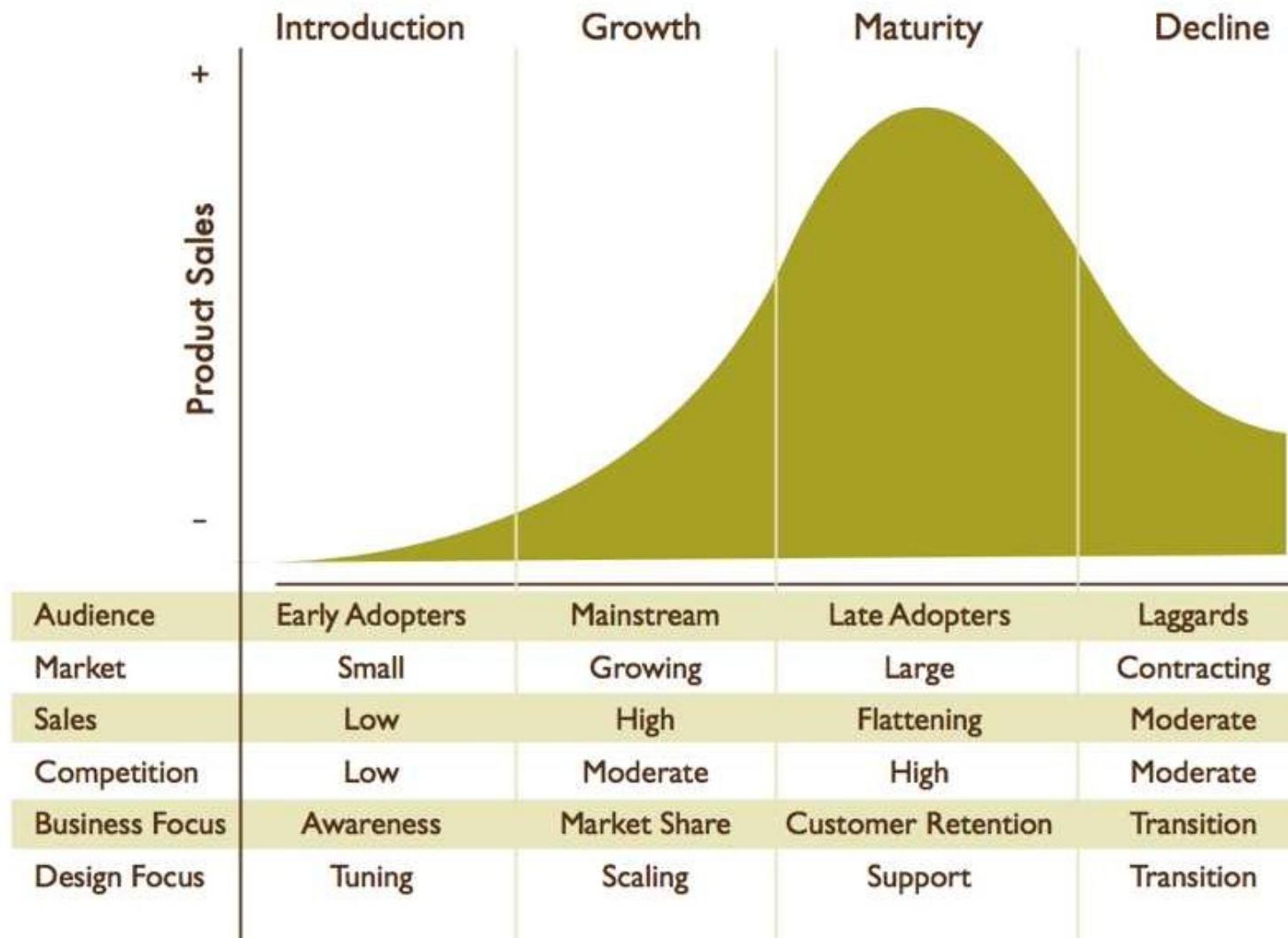
Company/Enterprise cycles do.



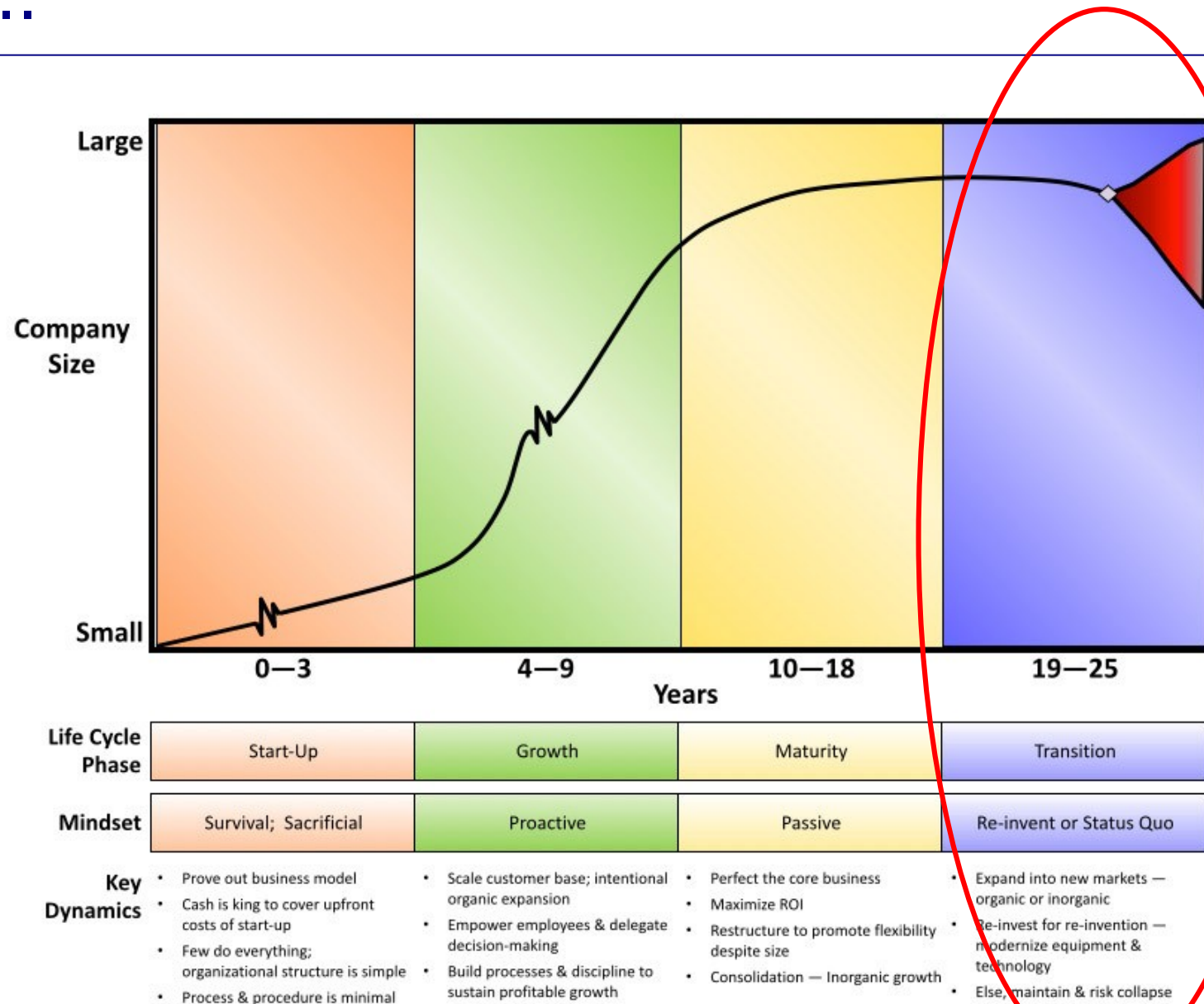
Corporate cycles can be quite sophisticated (like people) and they follow the same pattern.



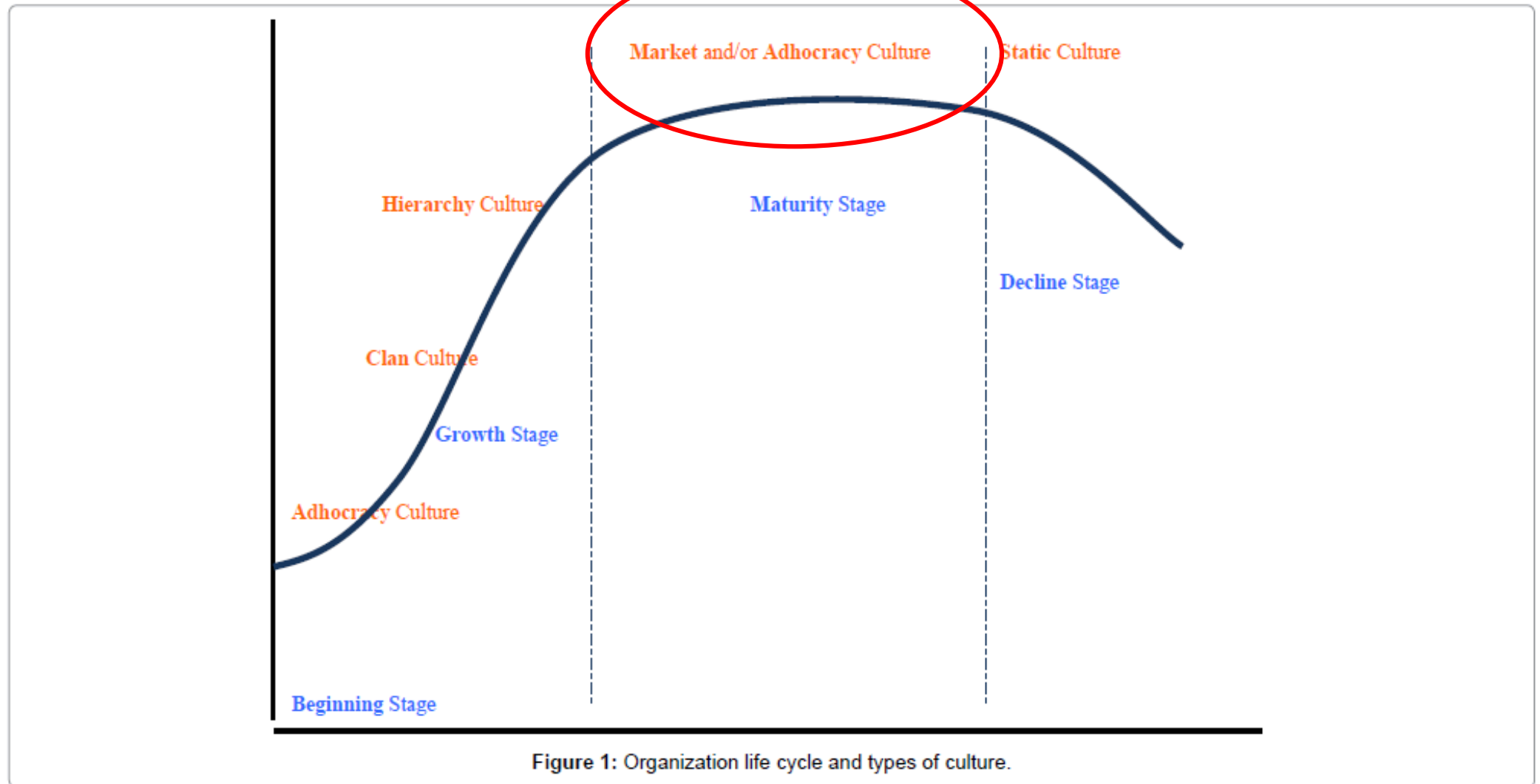
Even the inanimate organisation gets analysed.



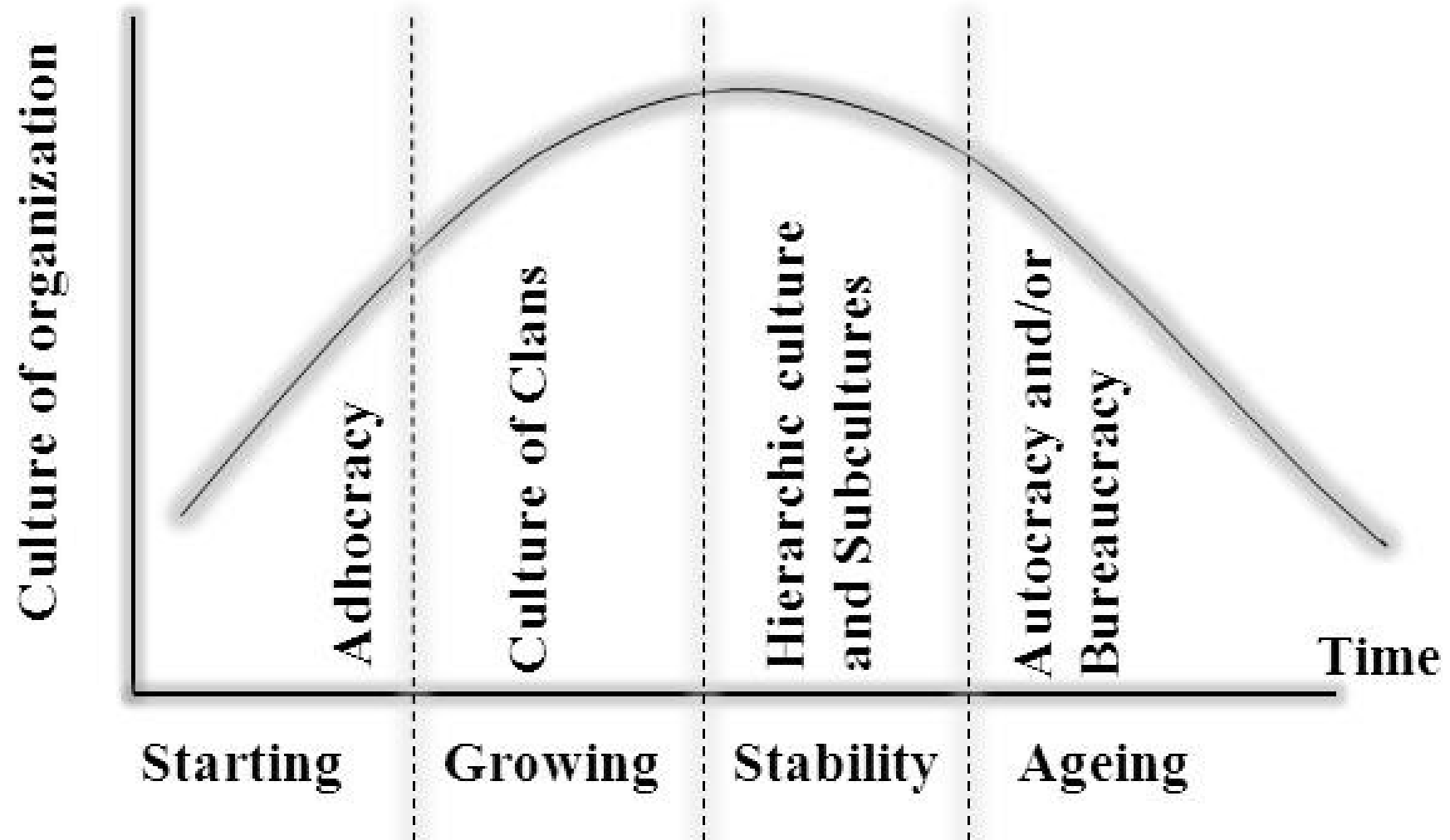
Note how the mindset changes are similar to those of people ...



Communities and cultures follow similar life cycles.



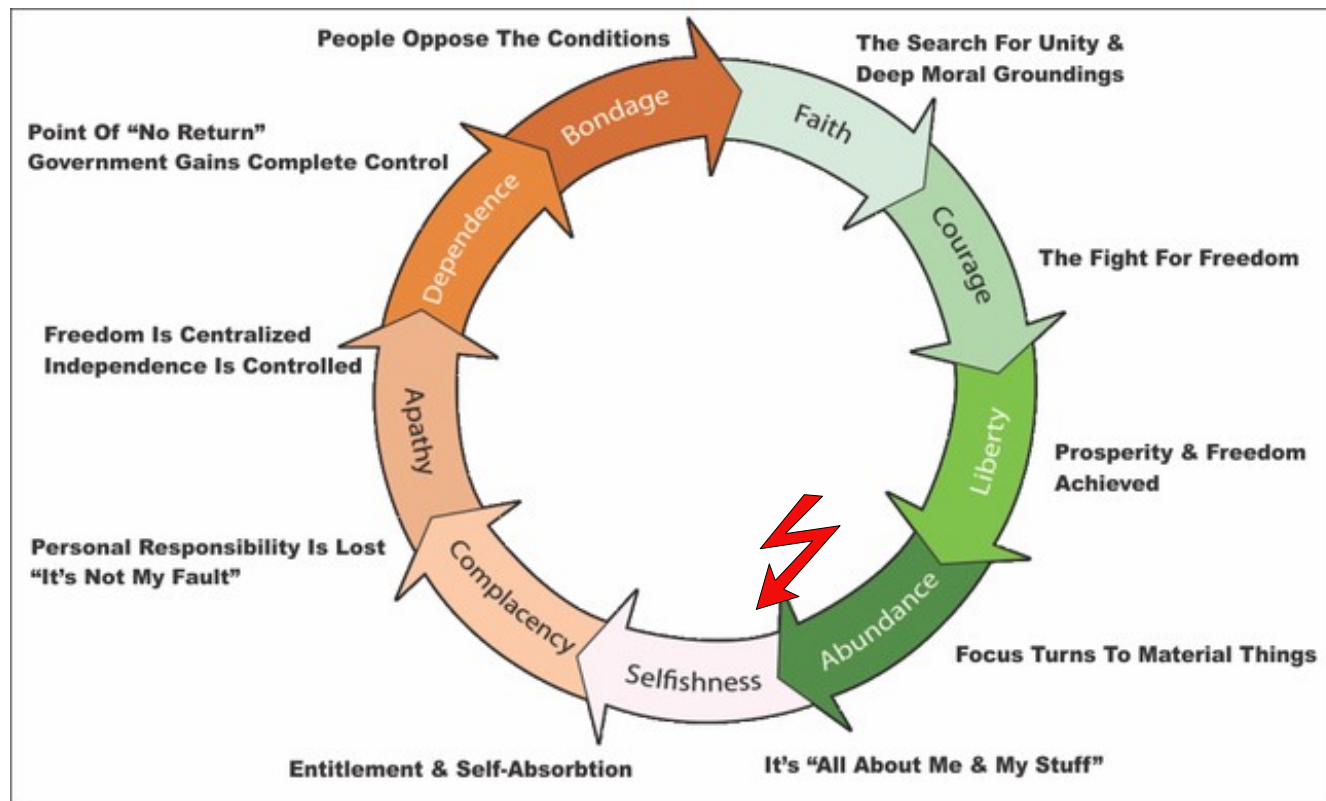
Organisation culture



Nations

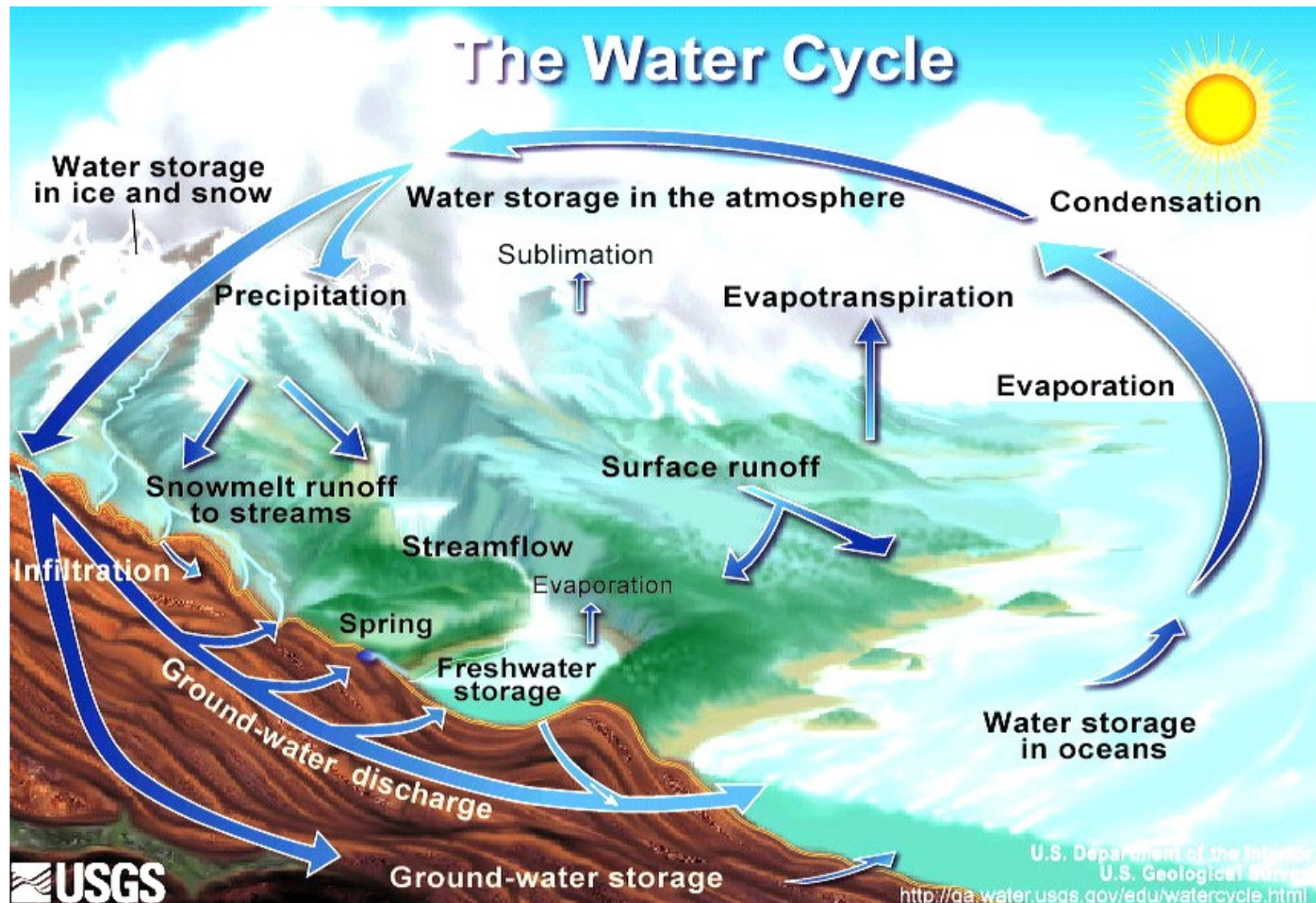
"We learn from history that we learn nothing from history."

George Bernard Shaw

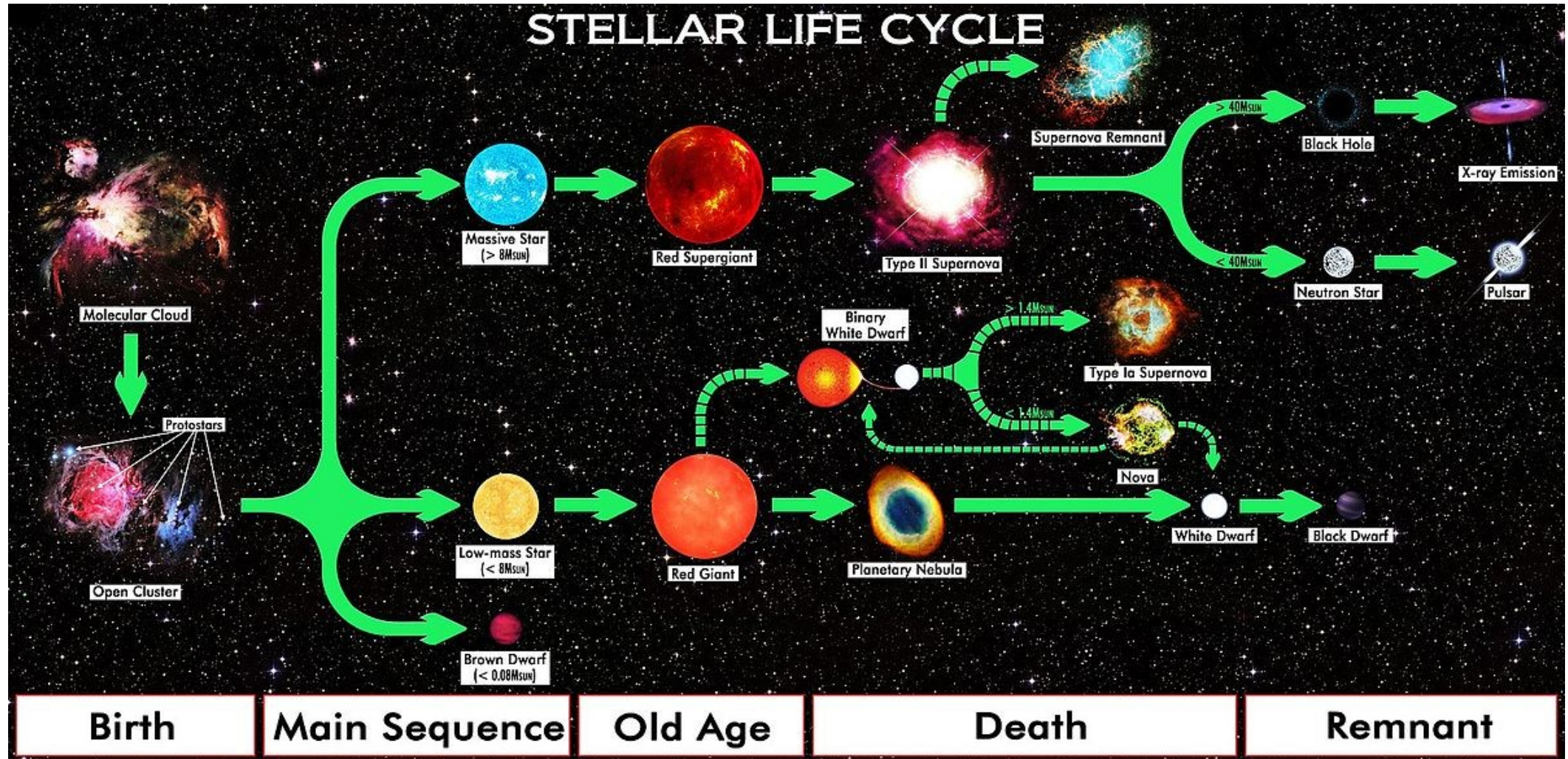


- Alexander Tytler C18 judge, educator, etc
- Generations pass so they forget
- Success encourages the community to vote themselves excess benefits...
- Which leads to collapse, centralised control, "bondage", moral refocus, revolution, repair, rejuvenate, ...

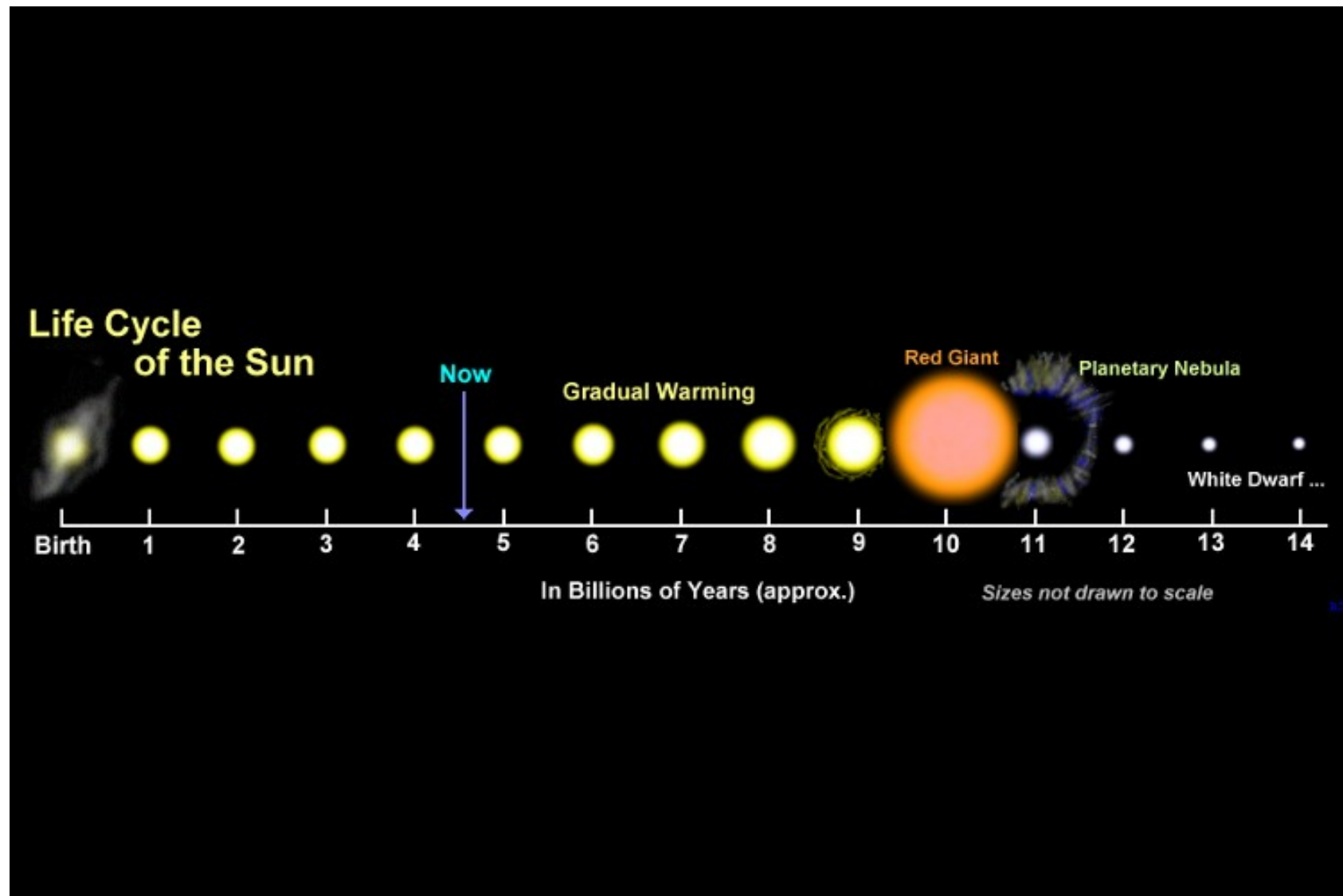
Planetary cycles?



Cosmic life cycles ...?



So yes, even the sun, a little star among the others, will grow and fade ...



Universal patterns are reflected from the subatomic to the universal: they are in us.

Hopi Creation Story:

Creator: "I want to hide something from the humans until they are ready for it. It is the realization that they create their own reality"

Eagle: "Give it to me, I will take it to the moon."

Creator: "No, one day they will go there and find it."

Salmon: "I will bury it in the bottom of the ocean."

Creator: "No, they will go there too."

Buffalo: "I will bury it in the Great Plains."

Creator: "They will cut into the skin of the Earth and find it even there."

Grandmother lives in the breast of the Mother Earth and has no physical eyes but sees with spiritual eyes.

Grandmother: "Put it inside them."

Creator: "It is done."

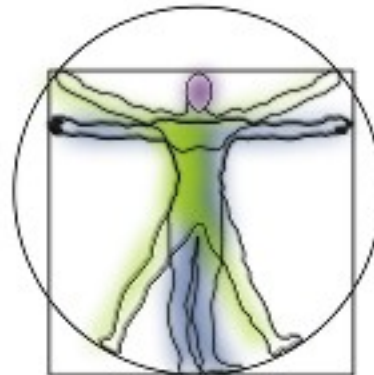
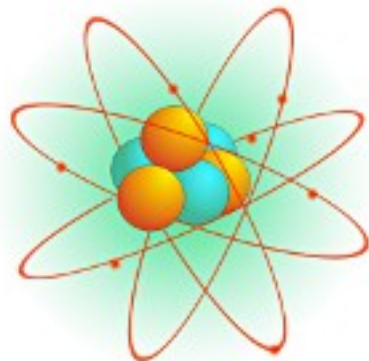


Where are we in this cycle of life?

Are humans separate?

No, because we all come from the same beginning ...

- The binary emergence of space-time and matter-energy is our universe.
 - Note there is no time without space and no matter without energy. The physical and metaphysical coexist in space-time.
- **Everything comes from that beginning. We're all space-dust. Everything is connected.**
- The patterns of nature are consistent at all levels from sub-atomic to universal scale.



Universal patterns of life are rhythmic, consistent ...

What are the signs of maturity?

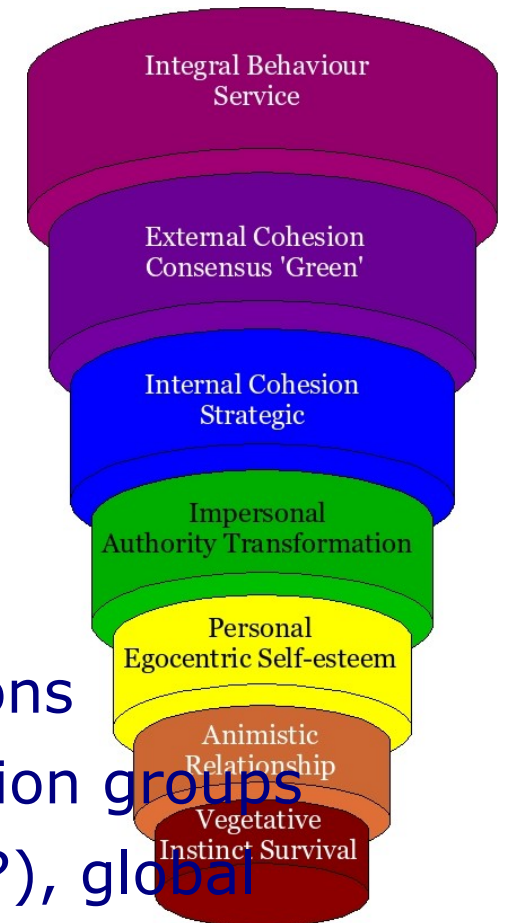
	physical	behavioural
Plant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flowers forms • Binary Fission, budding, fragmentation, spore formation, regeneration and vegetative propagation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advertise with colour and scent, release/accept pollen • Bud, tuber, rhizome separates
Animal	Hormonal changes, maturation of sexual organs, growth of physical abilities	Increased awareness of opposite gender, flirtation, exhibition, help group get resources.
Organisation	Stability	Resources and consumption balanced
Human	Same as animals	Self-responsibility, morality, altruism
Humanity	Virtual wholeness	Self-awareness, self-responsibility, interdependent perspective,

Yet, humans are a bit more complicated.
They think more ...

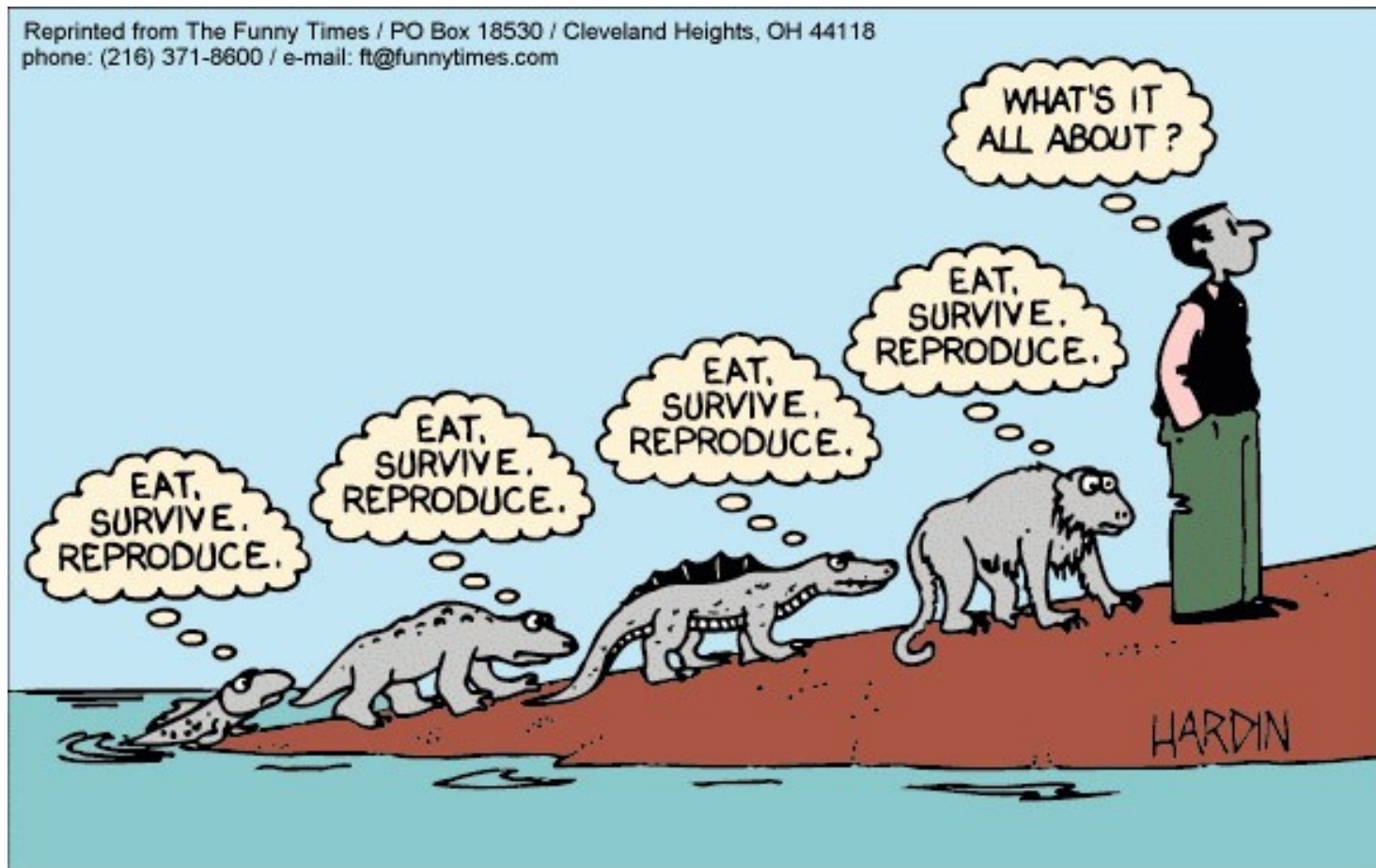
- There is no difference in our design from close primates, ...
- However, there are differences in degree, encouraged by some mutations, eg pre-frontal cortex, larynx,
- The Mind
 - Animals clearly have awareness, aka consciousness, but only at a very real level.
 - In humans the awareness of deception and ability to use it emerges at a young age (0-3 yo)
 - Deception gives the capacity to tell stories. It is imagination. We can imagine things that don't exist. We can visualise/conceive of things we can't see.
 - Metacognition allows us to see ourselves and our universe.
 - You can look at the universe from the outside (in your mind) while sitting at home!

Humans are inquisitive problem solvers ...

- Understanding ourselves and our immediate environment to
Understanding the cosmos, the everything.
- By observing patterns.
- The pattern of emergence is:
 - Pre-conscious (plant)
 - Pre-traditional (animal) – ego and magic
 - Traditional – cultural groups, religion
 - Pre-modern – self-confidence, self-control, nations
 - Modern – tested science, meritocracy, multi-nation groups
 - Post modern – accepting others, reconnecting (?), global
 - Integral – accepting the unknown, natural symbiosis
 - Holonic – selfless.



Emergence of consciousness.



Looking at the universe from your home, together ...

- Metacognition
 - Imagination, creativity
 - Infinity, deception/stories
- Language
 - Used for thinking
 - Words are ideas
 - Also used for communication
 - Individual and self-created, like all knowledge.
 - Yet also universal – we all think
- Altruism
 - Self-sacrifice for the good of the community.



Language, Liberty and Learning

- It's a human thing.
Whoever your parents are you will speak the language of the community you grow up in.
- It's "mentalese": an alien would say we all speak the same language, but different dialects.
- Language is for thinking, sometimes it's used for communication (words are only part of the message).
- We all speak our own language.
- Development of language demonstrates innovation, creativity and collaboration.

Each person creates their own language,
yet we all communicate (even with dogs ...).

- Recognise that “English”, “French” or “Chinese” are codes to facilitate communication among individuals who speak different languages.
- This offers a different perspective on personal development.
 - Young people will not feel personally inhibited when they say “Jim and me are going to the shops.”
 - Emotional intelligence is nurtured rather than destroyed.
- Language is for thinking. Words are ideas.
More words = more complex ideas.
- Communication is for collaboration.

Humans are liars ... in the search for truth.

- To stay alive you must understand your world and yourself.
That is the problem we all yearn to resolve.
“What’s it all about?”
- Human ability to imagine also gives the ability to deceive,
in fact, they are almost synonymous.
- Collaboration requires groups (organisation).
- Group cohesion requires differentiation from other groups.
- But humans look the same ...
- so beliefs or “the stories we agree on” or **culture** become
differentiators ...
 - We believe “blue”. They believe “red”.
- Perspectives differ, but the objective and tools are the same.

Cooperation among humans = morality

- Collaboration required for survival. $1 = \text{♂} + \text{♀} = 1$
 - Physical characteristics requires protection of young which requires task sharing which requires trust ...
 - Humans can not exist alone. (“not sustainable”)
- Beyond family, “culture” or behavioural norms signify group belonging.
- Code of behaviour is “morality”

Primate

Self interest (at the kill)
Individual intentionality (eg poultry)

Hominid

Collaborative foraging, shared roles
Joint intentionality (obligations)
400,000 ya

HSS

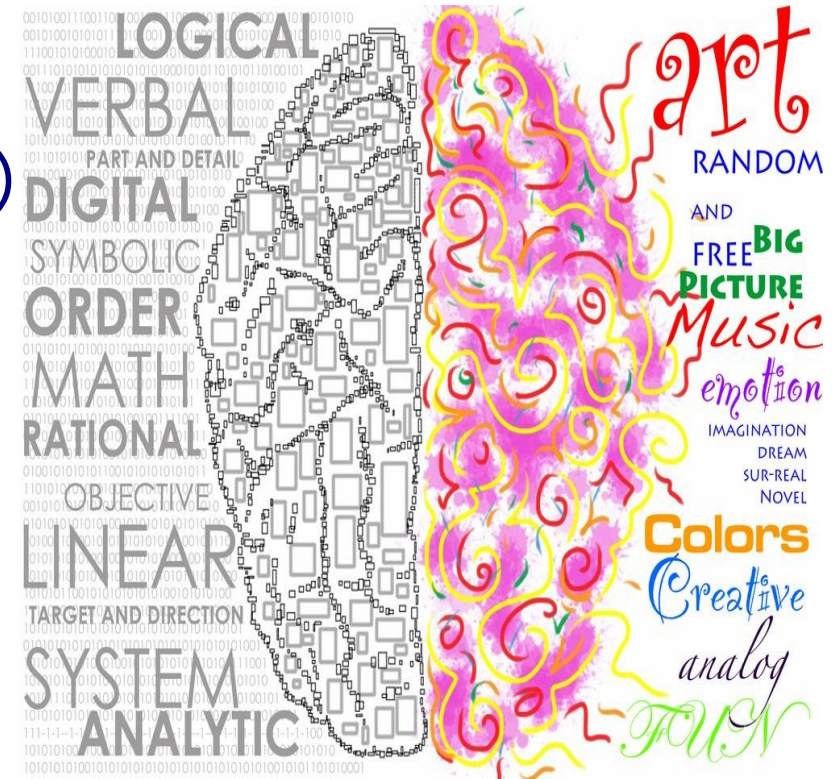
Beyond the group
Collective intentionality
Shared beliefs
100,000 ya
(ice age 195k -123k ya)

Humans can read minds.

- Metacognition = art, humour, ideas beyond “me”
- Metacognition = imagination, abstract ideas, beliefs ...
- Chimps, and infants, can know what others know or see, but not what they believe. (Sally and Anne dolls)
- Humans share beliefs, though stories, to come to common understanding.
- We feel different and know we are separate. We have an innate ego. *To survive you must be aware of yourself ...*
- We make choices. They are not predetermined and mechanistic but “mystical”.
- Free will is morality.
- Morality is truth (objective reality).

For humans, the “mind” is where it all happens: **perceptions and choices**

- Socrates – know thyself
- Descartes – mind/body duality
 - mysticism to mechanism
 - but free will! (language emergent)
- Newton debunked mechanistic science showing the world works by mystical forces
- Today Sages and Scientists agree.
- What is the mind?
 - Brain, CNS, enteric, hormones, ...
 - External connections.



So what are the signs of growing up for humans? And for humanity?

- Giving up childish things ...?
- Physical strength? Hair?
- Reproductive organs?
- Self-sufficiency?
- Self-responsibility?
- Self-control?
- Contribution to community?
- Emotional maturity – giving up the ego?

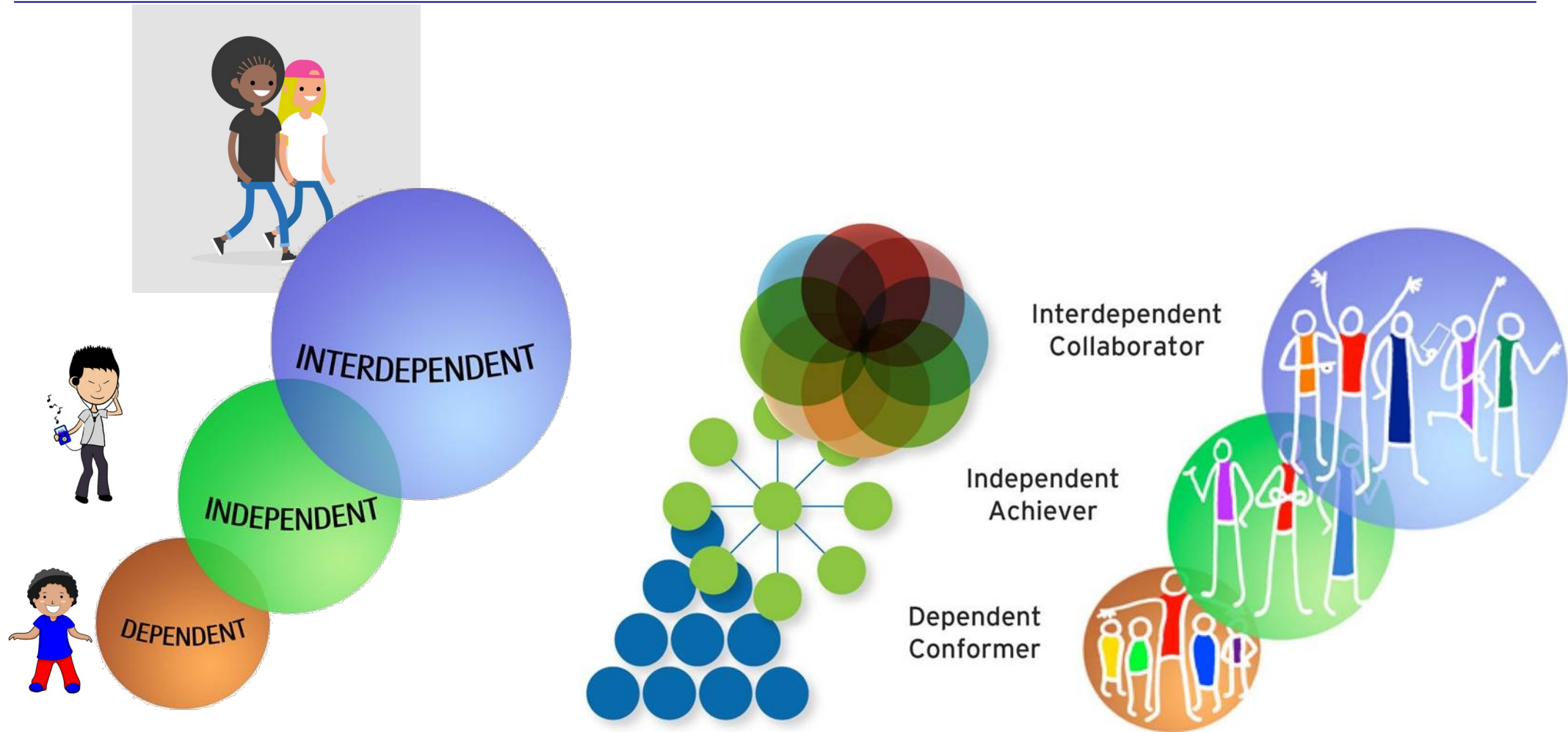
Do we all mature? Do all individuals “come of age”?

- 25 years to achieve physical maturity.
- The essence of altruism is innate.
 - An individual can not reproduce nor survive the rearing of a child. Collaboration and self-sacrifice is required.
- Clearly perspectives differ among individuals and through time among generations ...
- Physically we mature, but emotional maturity is often confounded by the culture of the community.
- The process of emotional maturing is signalled by the acceptance of others, by **inclusivity** of all.
- Humanity is now becoming aware of itself (anthropocene), recognising itself, beginning to control itself, ...

Making a human takes a long time.
But it's quicker with a map.

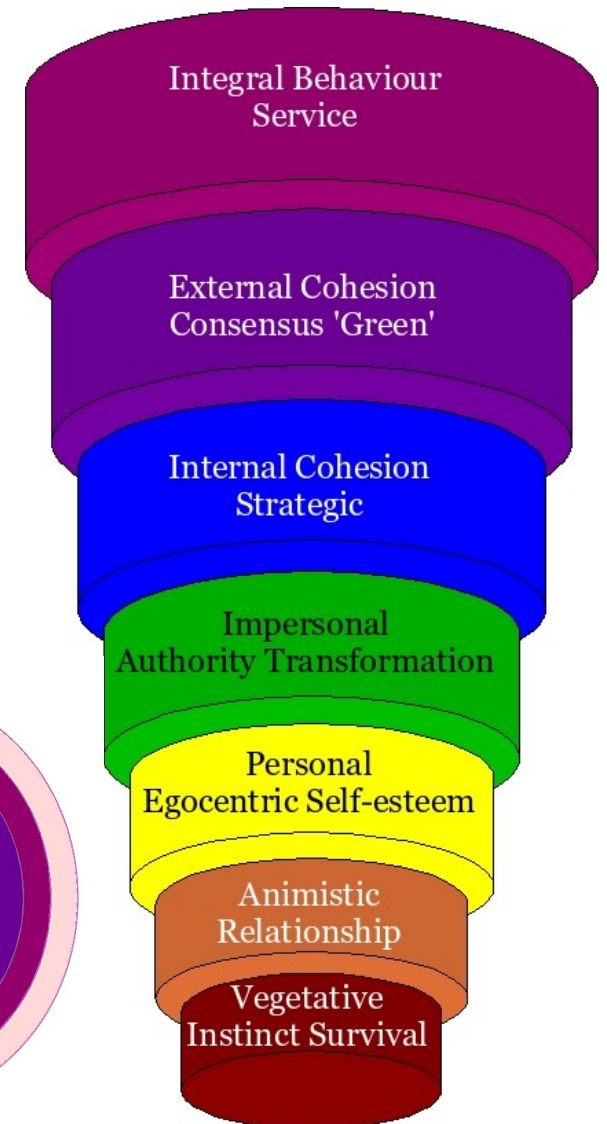
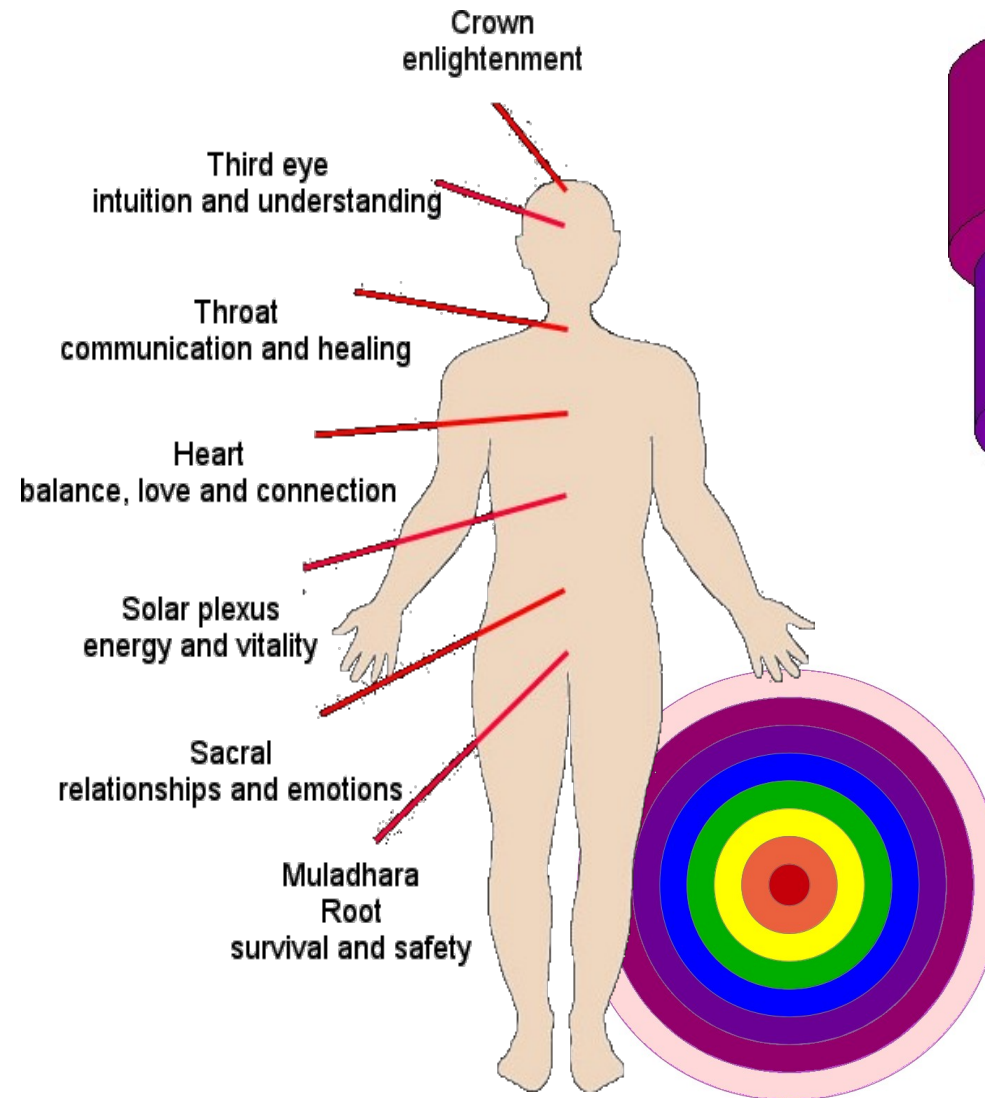
- Primates' fitness is a function of reproduction and survival through infancy ...
- Humans have delayed maturity and senescence.
- Humans are on a similar spectrum to other primates and mammals, but
- Humans do not fulfil cognitive, emotional, behavioural maturity till many years after reproductive maturity (early teens, rituals) and even after complete physiological development (~25).
- Inclusive thinking is the perspective that signals giving up ego and becoming a part of the whole. This is manifestation of emergent consciousness ...

How consciousness emerges ... in life.



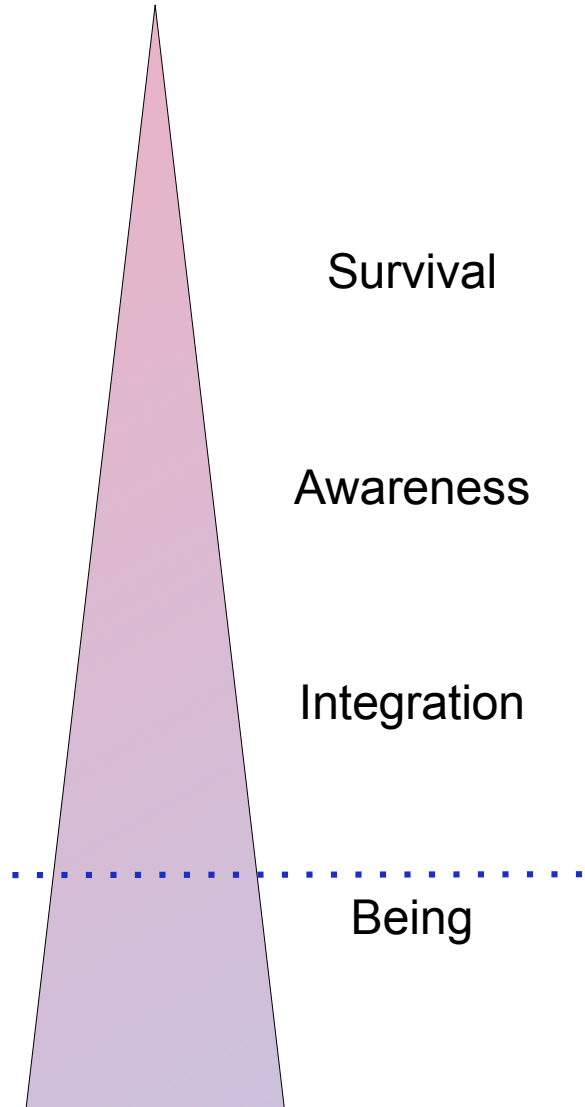
As we develop needs/values emerge to the same pattern.
All people. All systems.

System Intent	Values
Vegetative/Instinctive/Survival	Food, water, procreation, warmth, protection, staying alive
Animalistic/Relationship	Rites, rituals, taboos, superstitions, tribes, folk ways and lore
Personal/Egocentric/Self-esteem	Gratification, glitz, conquest, action, impulsive, live for the moment
Impersonal/Authority/Transform	Meaning, discipline, traditions, morality, rules, live for later
Internal cohesion/Strategic	Materialistic, consumerism, success, image, status, growth
External cohesion/Consensus	Egalitarian, feelings, sharing, caring, community
Integral Behaviour/Service	Natural systems, self principle, multiple realities, knowledge
Holonic Being	Collective individualism, cosmic spirituality, earth changes



What's it all about? Life!

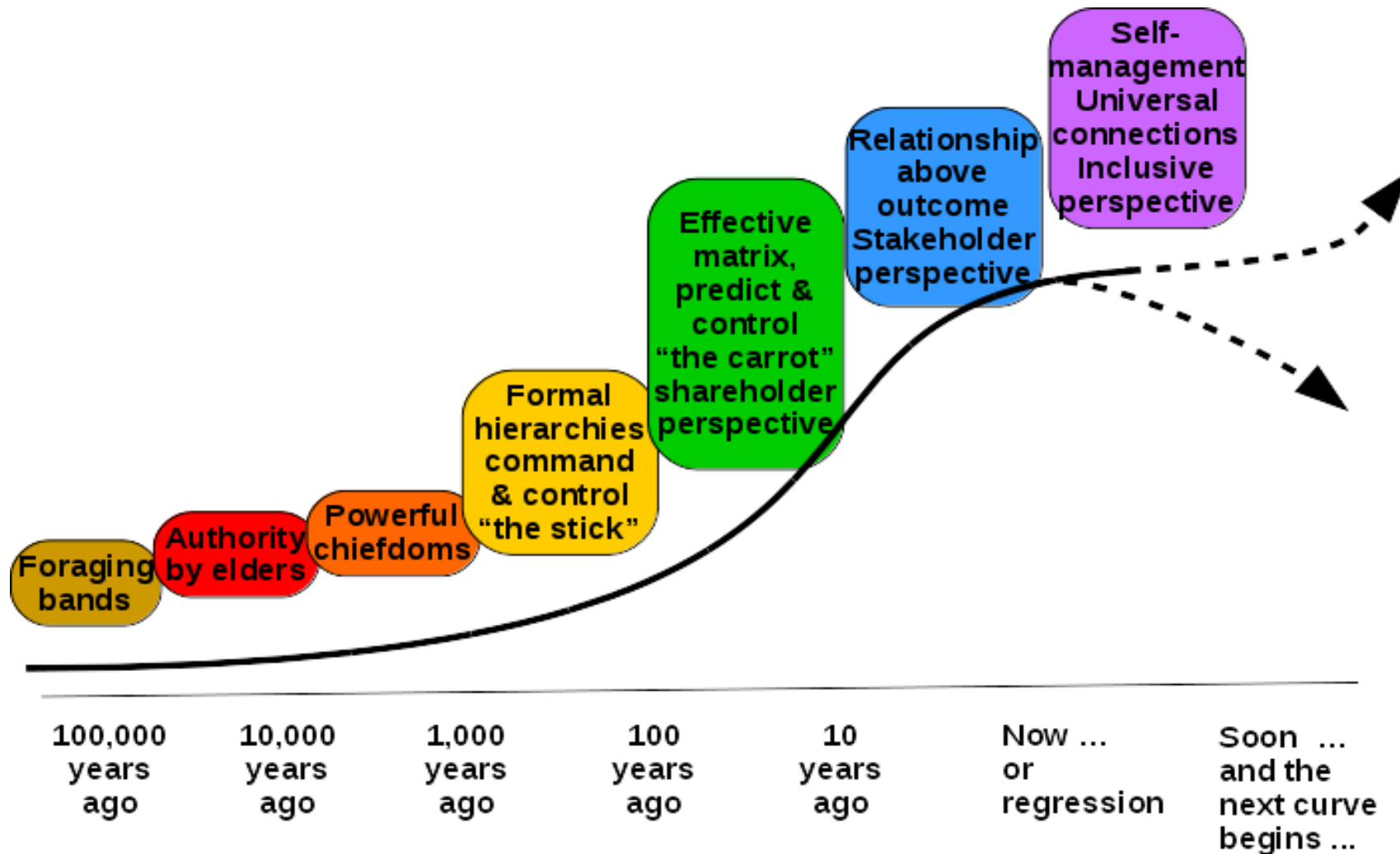
- Breathe
 - Food and water and shelter
 - Family, tribe
 - Role in life
 - Organise
 - Collaborate
-
- Serve
 - Be
- Survive
 - Safety
 - Security
 - Awareness
 - Thought
 - Scientism/
religion
 - Let go, integrate
 - Be



But the stories we tell ourselves can be wildly different.

- In the beginning there was nothing.
- BANG
- $E=mc^2$
- Complexity and entropy
- Ball of fire plus rocks ...
- 3rd rock from sun starts to breathe ...
- ... so do things on it too.
- And some become aware, ... and then some become aware of themselves, ... and then some become aware of existence and not existence ...
- And started creating stories, because they could.
- And judging stories because they could.
- Big Picture stories got the most judgement ...

What are we thinking now? Enlightenment or bust ...?



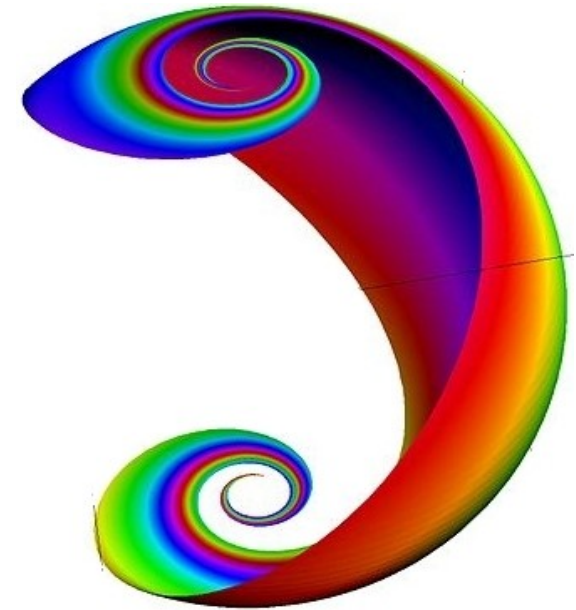
People, Organisations, Nations, The World: Are We Coming of Age?

Can you see the map of the future? Which path to choose?

- You can not know the truth, but you can see patterns and consequences.
- Energy-matter emerges in space-time through clouds of probabilities ...
- From nothing comes everything. We are part of that.
- **Nothing occupies most of the universe.** Metaphysical phenomena rule the universe.
- Choices influence outcomes. Nothing is certain. Probabilities emerge.
- A pattern of increasing complexity emerges. Integral behaviour allows complexity.
- Integral behaviour is inclusive. Ego is debased. Awareness grows. The cosmic rhythm becomes more apparent.

The map of how the universe works. It's a holonic rhythm.

- All is one.
- A holon is something that is at once a whole and a part.
- Self-organising. Self-reliant. Autonomous.
- Rules: Everyone is right.

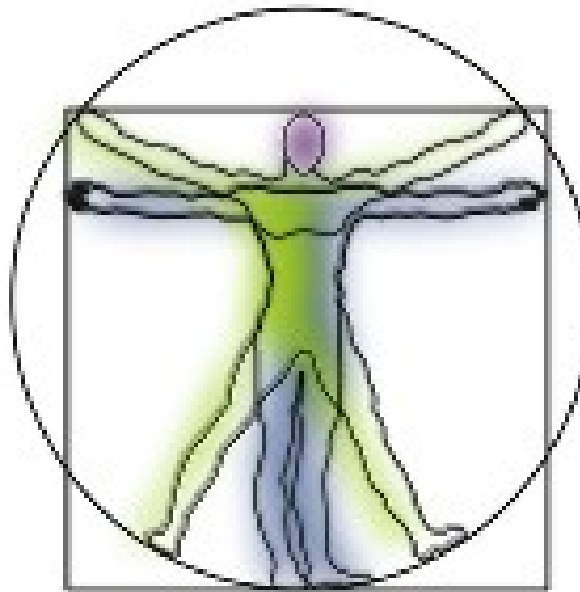
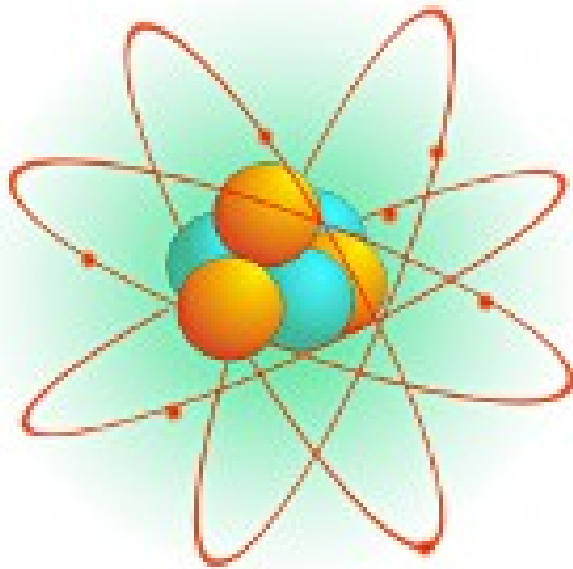


	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Level/ Zone	Vegetative/ Instinctive/ Survival	Animalistic/ Relationship	Personal/ Egocentric/ Self-esteem	Impersonal/ Authority/ Transform	Internal cohesion/ Strategic	External cohesion/ Consensus	Integral Behaviour/ Service	Holonic Being	
Values	Food, water, procreation, warmth, protection, staying alive	Rites, rituals, taboos, superstitions, tribes, folk ways and lore	Gratification, glitz, conquest, action, impulsive, live for the moment	Meaning, discipline, traditions, morality, rules, live for later	Materialistic, consumerism, success, image, status, growth	Egalitarian, feelings, sharing, caring, community	Natural systems, self principle, multiple realities, knowledge	Collective individualism, cosmic spirituality, earth changes	
Objective	Self-preservation	Self-gratification	Self-definition	Self-acceptance	Self-expression	Self-reflection	Self-knowledge	Being	

Everything is quite complicated, but the patterns are reflected in the smallest parts of everything.



And we are part of everything.

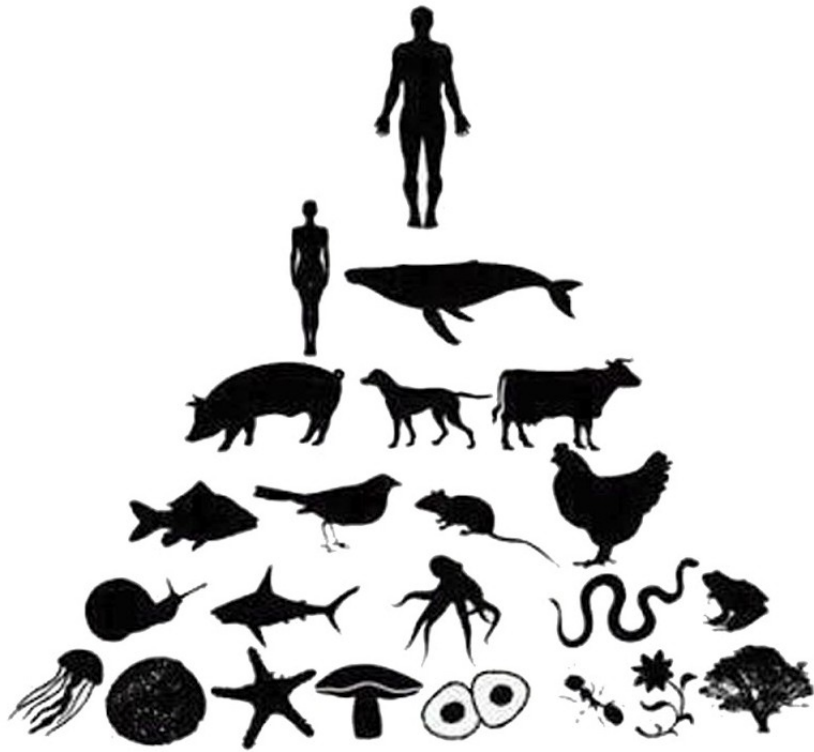


So where are we?

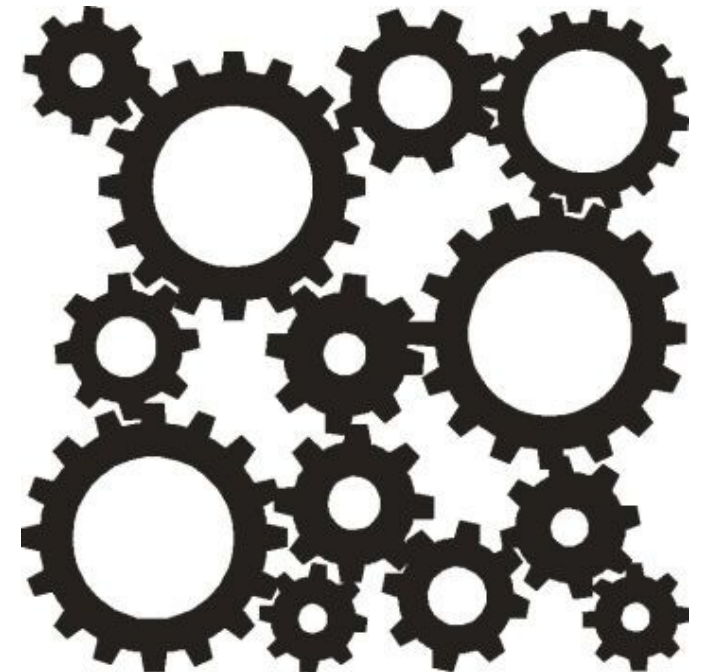
System Intent	Objective	Essence	Values	Life Stage	Social Stage	Nurture Tech
Vegetative/ Instinctive/ Survival	Self-preservation	survival, grounding	Food, water, procreation, warmth, protection, staying alive	New born	Wild	Space and time.
Animalistic/ Relationship	Self-gratification	Sexuality, emotions, desire	Rites, rituals, taboos, superstitions, tribes, folk ways and lore	Infant	Family	Care and focus.
Personal/ Egocentric/ Self-esteem	Self-definition	Power, will	Gratification, glitz, conquest, action, impulsive, live for the moment	Child	Tribe	Share roles, bring in others
Impersonal/ Authority/ Transform	Self-acceptance	Love, relationships	Meaning, discipline, traditions, morality, rules, live for later	Teenager	State	Redesign image
Internal cohesion/ Strategic	Self-expression	Communicati on	Materialistic, consumerism, success, image, status, growth	Adult	Empire/ Federation	Organisation and internal complexity
External cohesion/ Consensus	Self-reflection	Intuition, imagination	Egalitarian, feelings, sharing, caring, community	Parent	Global cooperation	Partnerships and codependencies
Integral Behaviour/ Service	Self-knowledge	Awareness	Natural systems, self principle, multiple realities, knowledge	Wise Person	Stateless Democracy	Redesign, re- juvenate, de/re- compose. transactional freedom
Holonic Being	Being	Being	Collective individualism, cosmic spirituality, earth changes	Part of the fabric of life	Anarchy	Open tech. Amorphous, flexible, coherent

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Still a mechanistic, exclusive world motivated by fear.



Centralised
Scheduled
Owned
Closed
Linear
Competitive
Hierarchical
Consume and waste
Human-centric
Monolithic
Human law



Behaviour reveals the values expressed within the pattern of life.

- People: Some are letting go of ego, most can not. We are held back by illusions of scarcity and obligation. Fear and desire dominate.
- Organisations: Monolithic corporates dominate. They are totalitarian regimes. The structure is amoral – without ethics.
- Nations: Regression to more centralised control while defenestrating multilateral cooperation. Public services (education, health) neglected. Global institutions side-lined. Belligerence high.
- The World: Regressive as resources expire while population rises. Internally bickering while external impact is suicidal.
- Conclusion: The **world is full of ego**. We choose to hang on to **independent exclusive thinking**.
- We are a teenager with booze and a car ...

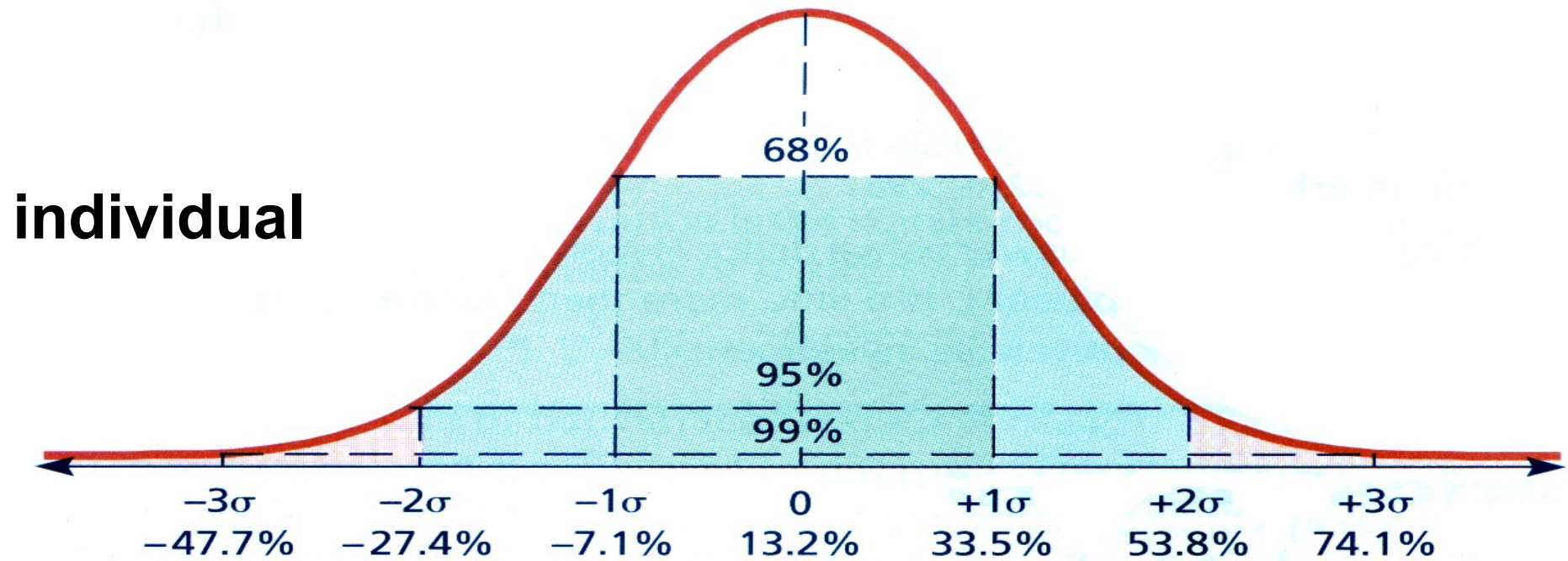
Making the same mistakes with bigger bets ...



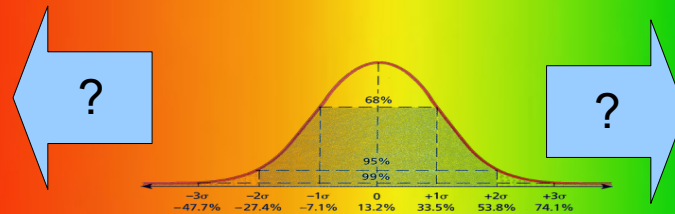
Making the same mistakes with bigger bets ...



Nobody's normal, everybody is.



species



The progression of the pattern suggests:
No ego. No humans.

- What's it all about? What's existence all about?
- It's about life.
- Life is about living.
That's about emergence through a universal pattern of binary energy-matter probabilities of increasing complexity in a space-time ...
- Progressing means
Giving up ego to choose to be part of the pattern
Collectively.
- NB: We have a **universal perspective**.



An inclusive world.

Today

Centralised

Scheduled

Owned

Closed

Linear

Competitive

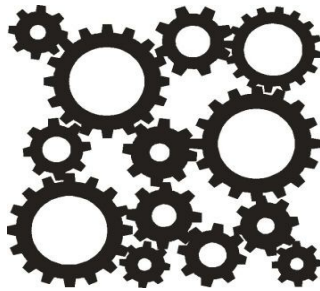
Pyramids

Consume and waste

Human-centric

Monolithic

Human law



Emergent Possibility

Distributed

Real-time

Shared

Open

Circular

Collaborative

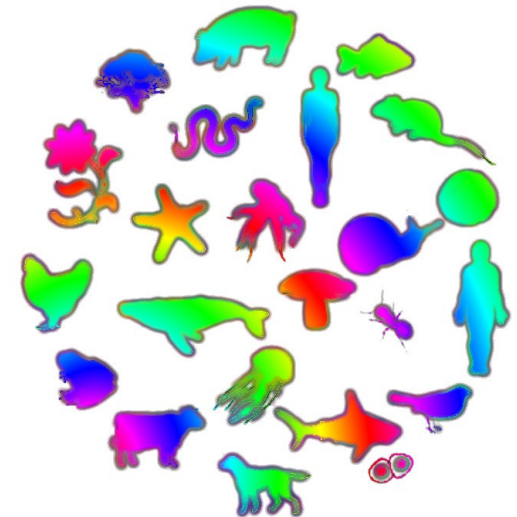
Networks

Use and renew

Universal view

Modular

Natural law



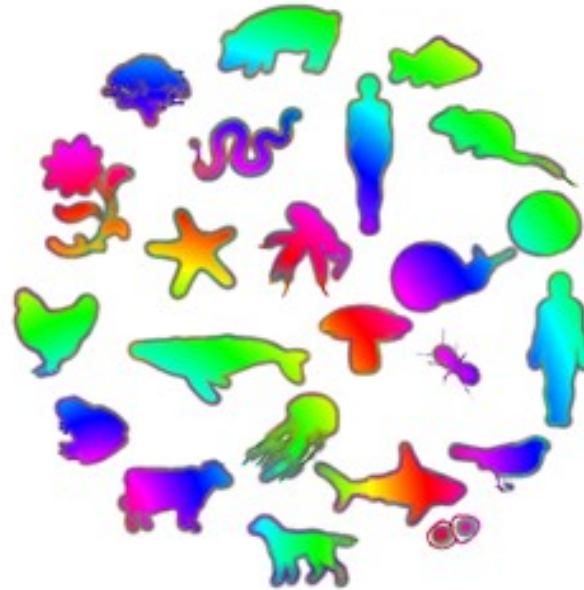
Does consciousness exist?

(Is it primary?)

- Ridiculed in 1972?
 - But then even psychology was questioned ... today “mindfulness” is on everyone’s lips.
- Isn’t it obvious? We’ve all got it!
- Why are all these academics discussing “scientism”?
- Because consciousness emerges.
- It’s part of the universal pattern of nature.
 - Nothing
 - Something
 - Breath
 - Idea
 - Aware
 - Self-aware

What does this mean for

- Economics?
- Financial system?
- Politics?
- Lifestyles?
- Social systems?
- Religion?
- Science?
- Education?
- Health?
- ...?



Emergent Possibility

Distributed

Real-time

Shared

Open

Circular

Collaborative

Networks

Use and renew

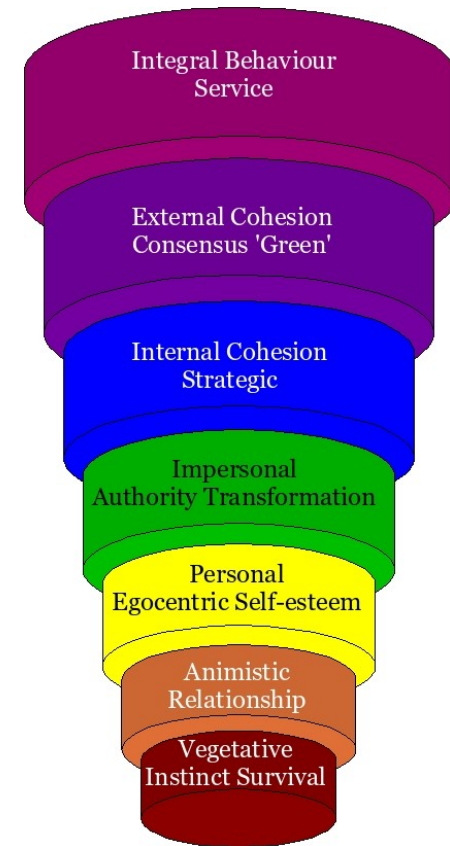
Universal view

Modular

Natural law

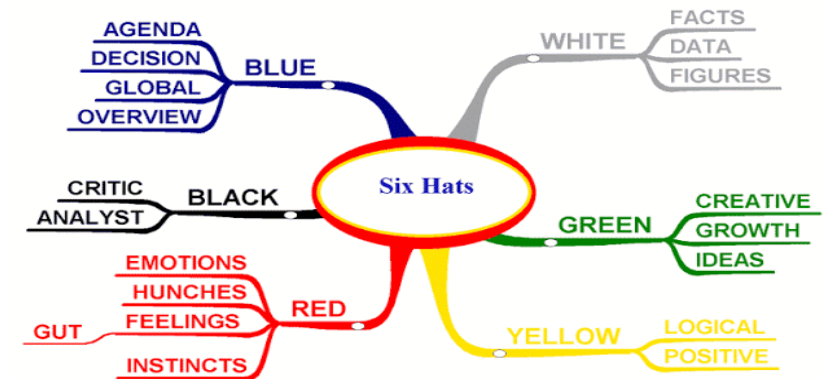
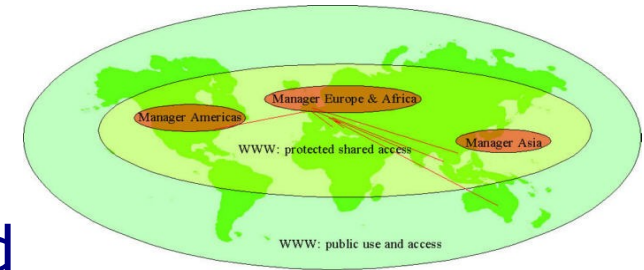
Has astraea come of age?

- Not yet flourished ...
- John Lennon and St Joseph
- Options:
 - Same same.
 - Let it go.
 - Member owned
 - ??
- Are the conditions right for a donationware ideas factory???



Organisation Ideas

- Collaborative, virtual footprint
- Member owned, stakeholder controlled
- Self-managed, holarchy
- Cradle to cradle
- Triple Bottom Line
- Open systems
- Parallel thinking
- Emotional intelligence



What can we do? breathe

- Recognise the pattern
- Feel the flow.
- Allow the cosmic rhythm to move you.
- Breathe – focus, awareness, cosmic rhythm, ...
- Tone
- Posture
 - Nerd neck
 - CoG
- Critical thinking

