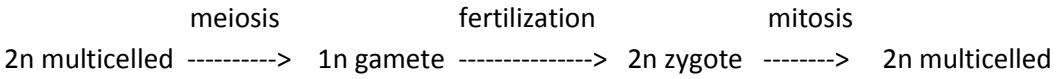
Life Cycles

The descriptions given here for the three types of life cycles found in eukaryotic organisms assume that the organisms described are multicelllular.

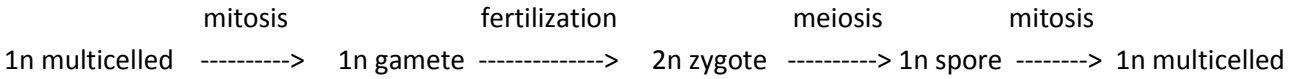
Animal Kingdom: Gametic Life Cycle

In the gametic life cycle, the gamete (egg or sperm) is the only haploid cell produced.



Fungi Kingdom: Zygotic Life Cycle

In the zygotic life cycle, the zygote is the only diploid cell produced.



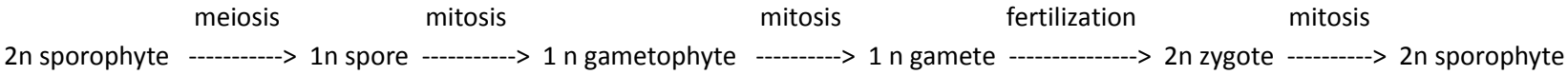
Plant Kingdom: Sporic Life Cycle

In the sporic life cycle, you see alternating multicelled 2n and 1n generations.

A sporophyte is a multicelled 2n plant that makes 1n spores by meiosis.

A spore undergoes mitosis to form a multicelled 1n plant, the gametophyte.

A gametophyte makes gametes by mitosis.



Algae

You can find examples of all three types of life cycles, including a three generation variation of the sporic life cycle, among the algae.