



NESTING

- Build nests at their breeding grounds in the North, reproduce and lay eggs
- Will usually live until 15-20 years old (death mainly due to destruction of habitat by humans, predation, starvation and flooding)



EGG

- Clutch of 4-6 eggs
- Incubated for 33-37 days
- Laid in **spring**, at their breeding grounds in the North



HATCHLING

- Just hatched (still with parents)
- Unable to swim
- Covered with down feathers
- Very brief stage (usually within 24 hours they can leave the nest)



NESTLING

- Leave nest and learn to swim usually within 2 days
- Feed themselves within 2 weeks
- Grey, down feathers, signs of flight feathers
- Remain with parents



FLEDGLING

- Have developed flight feathers and wing muscles
- Learn to fly around 13-17 weeks old
- Grey in colour
- Have grown in size (to approx. half their adult size)
- Remain close to parents



JUVENILE

- Grey, juvenile plumage until 2nd winter (usually)
- In **fall**, they **migrate** with their family to wintering grounds in the South
- Parents leave them (approx. 1 yr old), but juveniles usually remain together in sibling groups until around 2 yrs old
- Nearly as large in size as the parents



SUB-ADULT

- White in colour (though may look duller than adults) and may not yet have their full adult plumage
- Fully independent from parents
- Not sexually mature/able to reproduce



ADULT

- White in colour and fully grown
- Able to reproduce and will find a partner to mate with for life (usually around 5-7 yrs old)
- Will **migrate** North in the **winter** to their breeding grounds

LIFE CYCLE of a Swan