



Fanciful Frogs and Toads

Metamorphosis and similarities and differences!



Metamorphosis

Frogs begin as a gelatinous (jelly covered) mass of eggs. The jelly protects the eggs. Then they hatch as tadpoles with gills and a tail, but no limbs. Next the tadpole develops legs. Gradually the tadpole changes into a froglet with front legs and a wider mouth; the tail grows shorter and disappears. The food for the frog is stored in the tail. The froglet also develops lungs and the gills disappear. Now the froglet is a frog.



Toads also undergo metamorphosis....

Males and females mate (amplexus) in the water, and swim to find a place to fertilize and deposit the eggs in long slimy strands. The jelly surrounding the eggs swells so the eggs float in the warmer water by the surface.

The eggs hatch and the tadpoles grow longer developing a body and tail.

Like frogs, toads go through stages from tadpole to toadlet to toad, gradually losing aquatic features (gills) and developing terrestrial features (lungs) and limbs.



Frogs and toads

You can tell most toads and frogs apart by the appearance of their skin and legs. Most frogs have long legs for jumping, and smooth skins covered in mucus. Toads generally have shorter legs for crawling, and rougher, thicker skins.

Toads generally lay their eggs in long strands and frogs lay their eggs in a cluster that resembles a bunch of grapes.



How do frogs make croaking sounds?

Frogs close their nostrils and send air back and forth across their vocal cords and into a vocal sac, which is the part you see puffing up. There are 3 kinds of vocal sacs: single median throat sac, paired throat sacs, and paired lateral sacs..

Frogs make many different croaking sounds: clicking, choral, barking, trill, chirp, chuckle, whine, “jug-a-rum”, “wrenk”, “bonk”.

In general, male frogs croak at night to attract females.

<https://txmn.org/alamo/amphibians/>





Toads croak, mainly to attract a mate and warn off other males, but female toads can also make sounds.

The loudness of the croak provides information about the size of the toad, in a crowded pond area.

Frogs can have different numbers and kinds of air sacs.

Where do frogs live,
when are they active,
and are they social or
solitary?

Frogs live on all the continents, except Antarctica, and in all sorts of environments, so long as there is fresh water nearby, and in general they live in aquatic habitats.

Generally, frogs are active at night when they can't be seen.

And frogs “hang out” in groups called armies, colonies or knots.

Frogs are carnivores as adults, herbivores as tadpoles.



Toads prefer moist open fields and grasslands.

Toads are mainly nocturnal.

They are mainly solitary except when breeding.

They are mainly carnivores as adults, herbivores as tadpoles.



Frogs are omnivores.
They eat, plants,
animals and insects.

Frogs eat insects, snails, worms, algae,
macroinvertebrates, fish, and even small
birds, mice and other frogs.



Frogs and toads around San Antonio:

Blanchard's Crocket Frog

Balcones Barking Frog

Western Narrow-mouthed Toad

Spotted Chorus Frog

Cope's Gray Treefrog

Green Treefrog

Rio Grande Leopard Frog

Southern Leopard Frog

American Bullfrog

Rio Grande Chirping Frog

Gulf Coast Frog



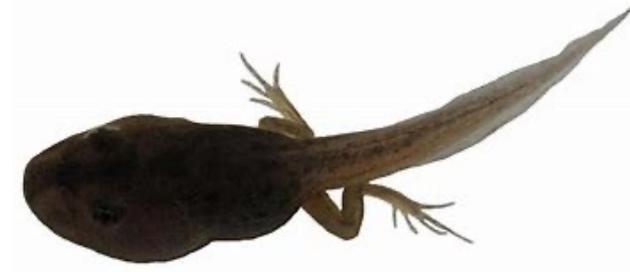
You can be finger frogs!

Here is the egg (fist)



so slimy and pale—

tadpole grows legs-- (touch legs)



frog loses its tail (all gone sign moving hands apart)!



You can sing the Frog
song to the tune of
Farmer in the Dell.

The frog lays her eggs. The frog lays
her eggs—hands making eggs

Hi ho the derrio,

A tadpole hatches out. (opening
hands)

The tadpole grows back legs (touching
rear and legs)

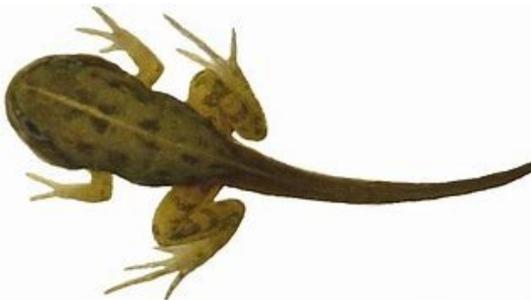
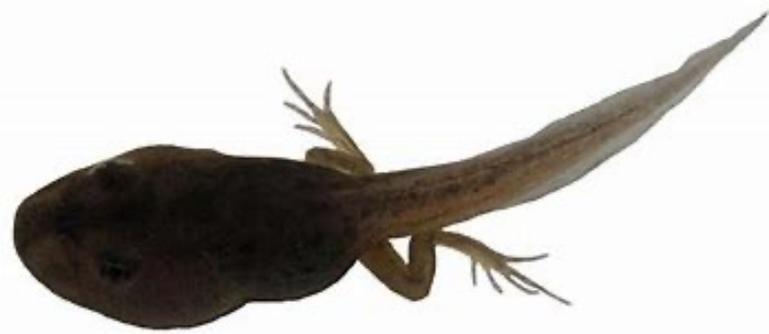
The tadpole's tails is gone (wiggling
rear)

The tadpole's mouth grows bigger and
(opening mouth wide)

Now we have a frog! (jumping)

Based on Growing Up WILD





You can sing the song to the tune of *Frere Jacques*.

Watch the tadpole, (hands together prayer position) Watch the tadpole
Lose his tail, lose his tail. (all gone separating hands)
Next, he has two feet (2 fingers);
Then he has four feet (4 fingers).
Now a frog! Now a frog (jumping motion)!

You can sing the song to the tune of *I'm a Little Teapot*.

I'm a froggy froggy (hands making big eyes),
Slimy green.

Began as a tadpole (hands prayer position),
As you have seen.

I grow some legs (touching legs)
And tail disappears, (all gone,
hands separating)

And now I'm a frog– (hands jumping)

Let's give some cheers!
"Ribbit! Ribbit! Ribbit!"





Froggies

Growth and metamorphosis



Here are
the eggs



tadpole slimy and
pale—



tadpole
grows legs-



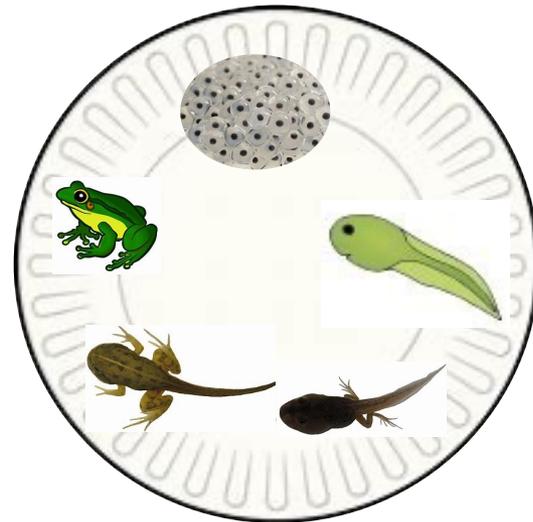
froglet
loses its
tail!

You can make a frog life cycle plate!

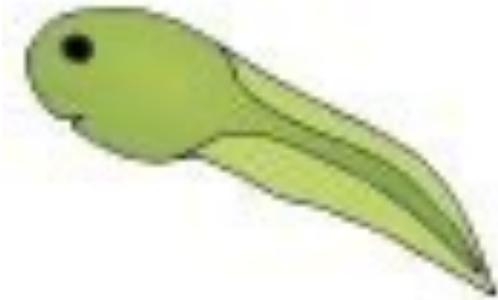
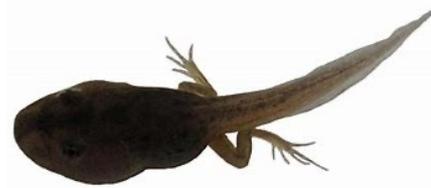
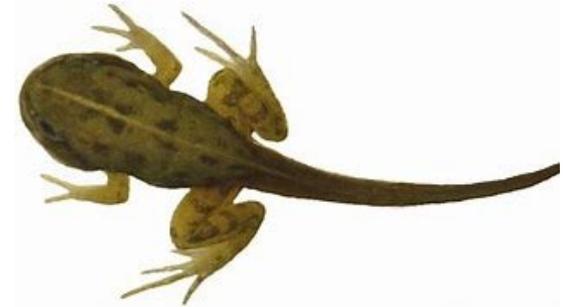
Get a paper plate.



Glue the life cycle pictures on the plate.



Frog life cycle pictures for the Frog Life Cycle Plate

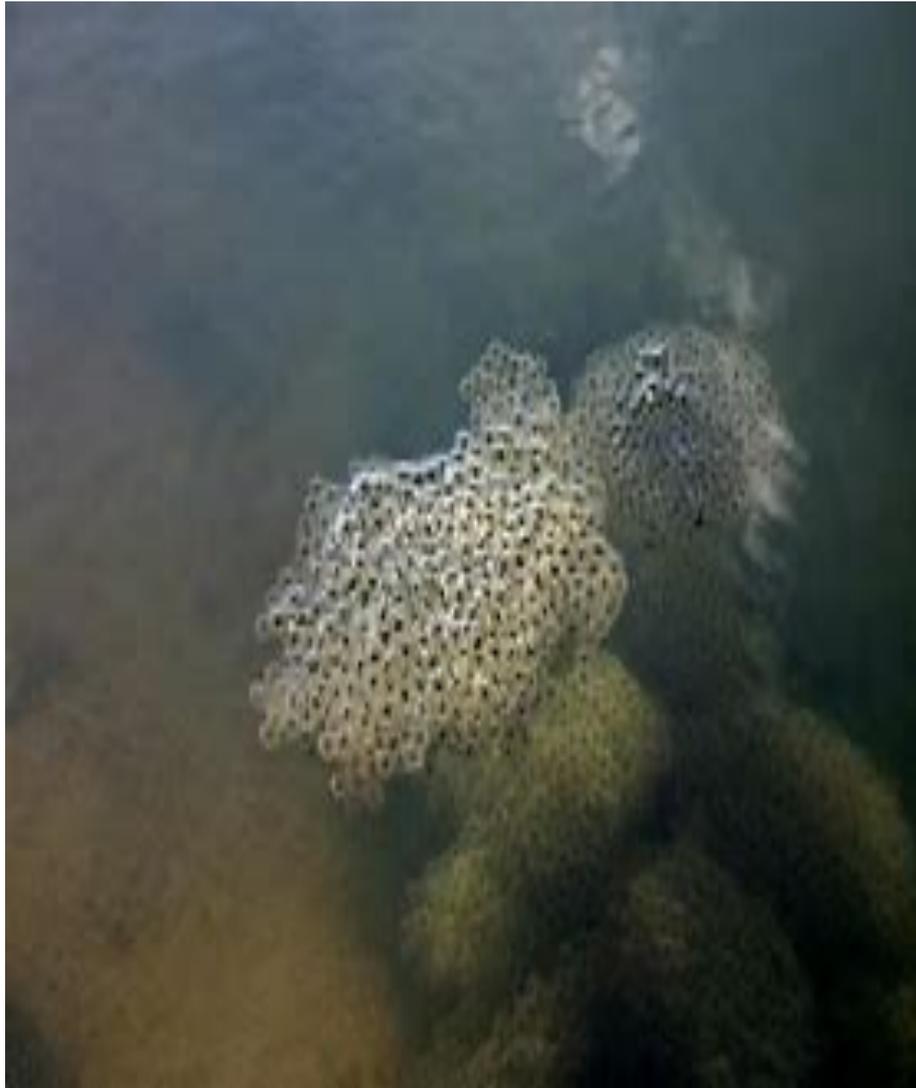




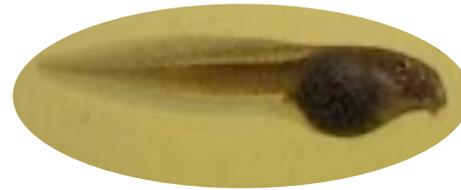
Making frog life cycle art! You can take play dough or clay and use it to make frog metamorphosis from egg to frog!

You can make an underwater tadpole, froglet and eggs picture!

Here is your underwater environment.



Here are your tadpoles, froglets, and eggs, to glue on!



Be a Frog Culinary Creator!

How many ways can you make a frog using vegetables and fruits?



What other ways could you make a frog
or tadpole?



Frog and Toad Books

I Love Frogs by Amanda Miller and Sandra Mayer

Tadpole to Frog by Steve Parker

Frogs, Toads, Lizards and Salamanders by Nancy Winslow
Parker and Joan Richards Wright

From Tadpole to Frog by Wendy Pfeffer

Frogs and Toads by Maria angels Julivert