

Froggies

Amphibians, reptiles and growing and changing

Reptiles and amphibians are both cold-blooded vertebrates.

Amphibians spend half of their lives in water and remaining half on land. They have smooth, sticky, porous skin which requires moisture. They breathe first with gills and then with lungs. They lay their eggs, which are covered with gel, in water. They secrete toxins to protect themselves. Amphibians undergo metamorphosis.

Reptiles live on land, breathe through lungs, and lay eggs with a hard shell on land. They have a hard and scaly skin, to retain moisture in hot dry conditions, and to protect them. Reptiles do not undergo metamorphosis.



Reptiles and amphibians are both mainly omnivores and both can use camouflage.

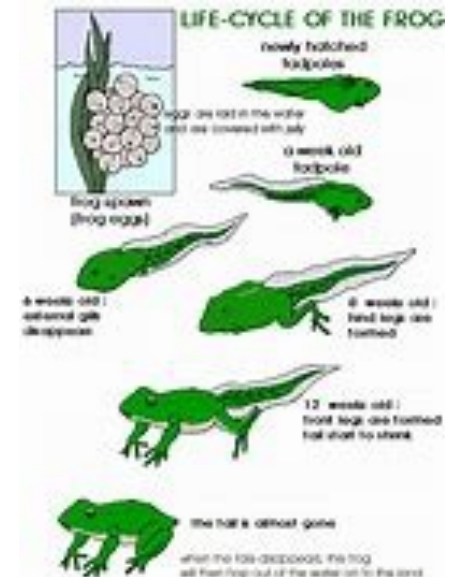
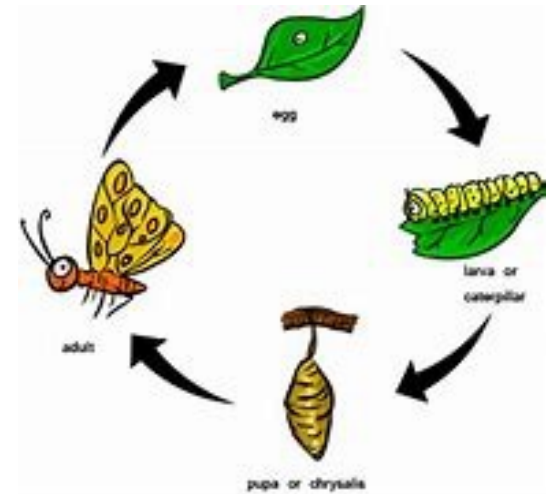
Amphibians have a narrow range of color perception. They have webbed feet for swimming and jumping.

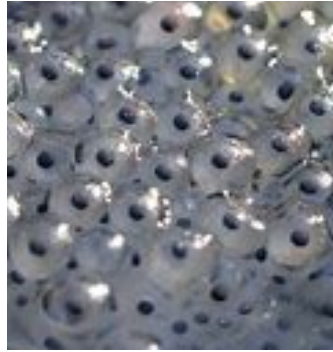


Reptiles have a wide range of color perception. Their feet are adapted for running.

Metamorphosis

Living things grow and change. Plants begin as seeds and grow into plants that flower and produce more seeds. Animals begin as eggs. Some animals develop inside the mommies and then are born as baby animals. Some animals lay eggs that hatch into baby animals, and some animals go through different stages between being an egg and a baby animal. This process is called metamorphosis. In complete metamorphosis there are four changes in form. In incomplete metamorphosis there are three changes in form.





Metamorphosis

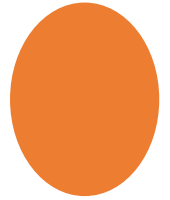
Frogs begin as a gelatinous (jelly covered) mass of eggs. The jelly protects the eggs. Then they hatch as tadpoles with gills and a tail, but no limbs. Next the tadpole develops legs. Gradually the tadpole changes into a froglet with front legs and a wider mouth; the tail grows shorter and disappears.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



Frogs and toads

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



Salamanders and lizards

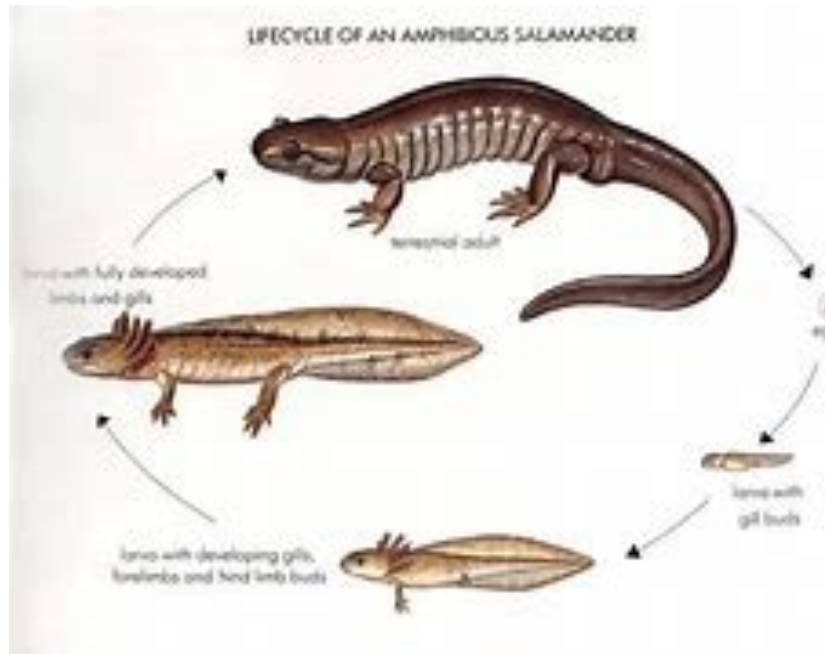
Salamanders are amphibians, requiring moist conditions in which to live. They can be found under leaves in the forest, or under rocks near a stream. Lizards are adapted for hotter climates and can even live in the desert. They often are found basking in the sun.

Salamanders and lizards may appear similar, but there are differences. Salamander skin is smooth and moist, without scales. They have stumpy toes with limited ability to regenerate when severed. Lizard skin is dry and scaly, like a snakes. Their toes are longer and can be used for climbing.



Salamanders have eggs without shells and lay them in a moist environment. Many salamander eggs, in fact, must be entirely submerged because the larvae have gills and are dependent on water. These aquatic salamanders go through metamorphosis just as frogs do. Lizard eggs have shells, and their nests typically are in the sand. Young lizards are simply small versions of their parents, with no metamorphosis necessary.

While some amphibians can be 6 feet, this is not usual. Very large lizard-like animals probably are lizards.



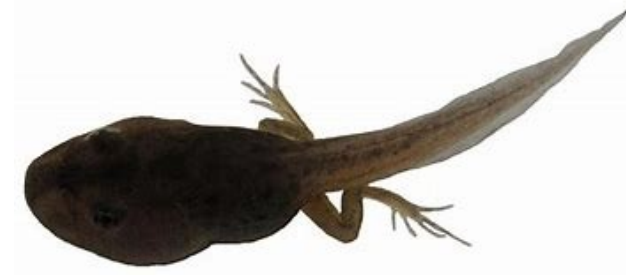
You can be finger frogs!

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.

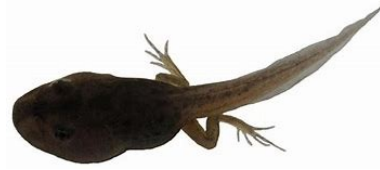
The frog lays her eggs. The frog lays
her eggs—hands making eggs
Hi ho the derrio,
A tadpole hatches out. (opening
hands)
The tadpole grows back legs (touching
rear and legs)
The tadpole's tails is gone (wiggling
rear)
The tadpole's mouth grows bigger and
(opening mouth wide)
Now we have a frog! (jumping)

Growing Up WILD



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

Watch the tadpole,
Watch the tadpole
Lose his tail, lose his tail.
Next he has two feet;
Then he has four feet.
Now a frog! Now a frog!



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

I'm a froggy froggy,
Slimy green.
Began as a tadpole,
As you have seen.
I grow some legs
And tail disappears,
And now I'm a frog.
Let's give some cheers!
"Ribbit! Ribbit! Ribbit!"



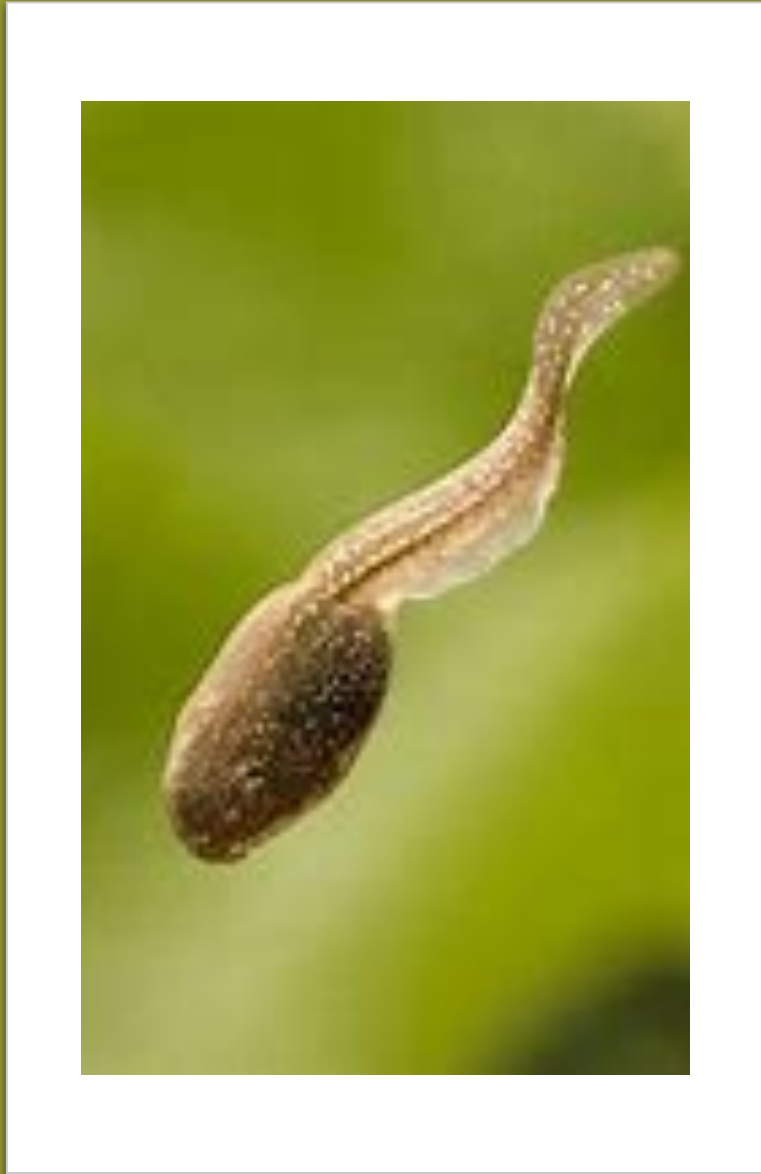


Froggies

Growth and metamorphosis



Here are
the eggs



tadpole
slimy and
pale—



tadpole
grows legs-



froglet
loses its
tail!

You can play Frog Hide-and-Seek!

Here are some frogs for hiding around your house—where do you think frogs would like to hide?

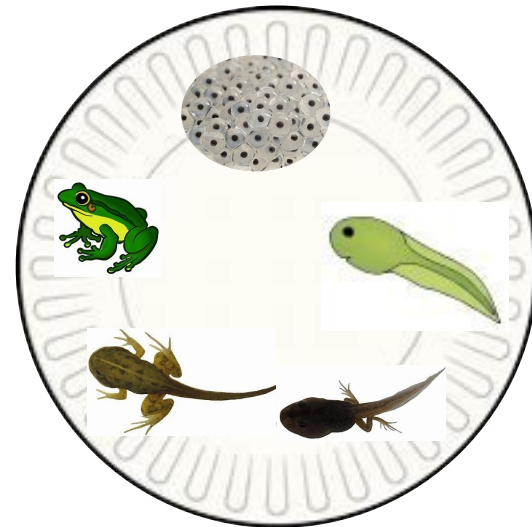


You can make a frog life cycle plate!

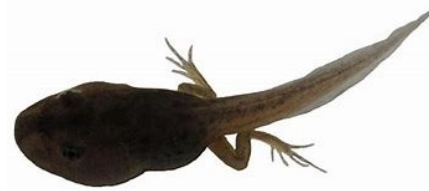
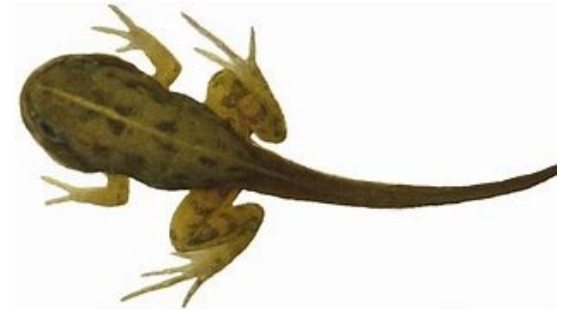
Get a paper plate.



Glue the life cycle pictures on the plate.



Frog life cycle pictures for the Frog Life Cycle Plate



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?



You can make a mini-book!

- Fold the paper in half
- Then in half again.

