

Animal Life



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Frog Survey 2007.
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Fact File:

- ◆ Frogs are amphibians.
- ◆ Frogs can live in water or on land.
- ◆ Water is absorbed through their skin, so they must live in wet or damp places.
- ◆ They do not have scales.
- ◆ They range from 1cm to 30cm in length.
- ◆ They lay 4,000 eggs at one time.
- ◆ Frogs can change colour to match its surroundings.
- ◆ They have four legs.
- ◆ They have big round ears on the sides of their heads.
- ◆ To make a croaking sound, a frog squeezes its lungs with its nostrils and mouth closed. Air flows over the vocal chords, causing its vocal sac to inflate like a balloon.
- ◆ The earliest frog appeared about 190 million years ago.
- ◆ There are around 3,500 species of frogs and toads in the world.
- ◆ A group of frogs is known as an army!



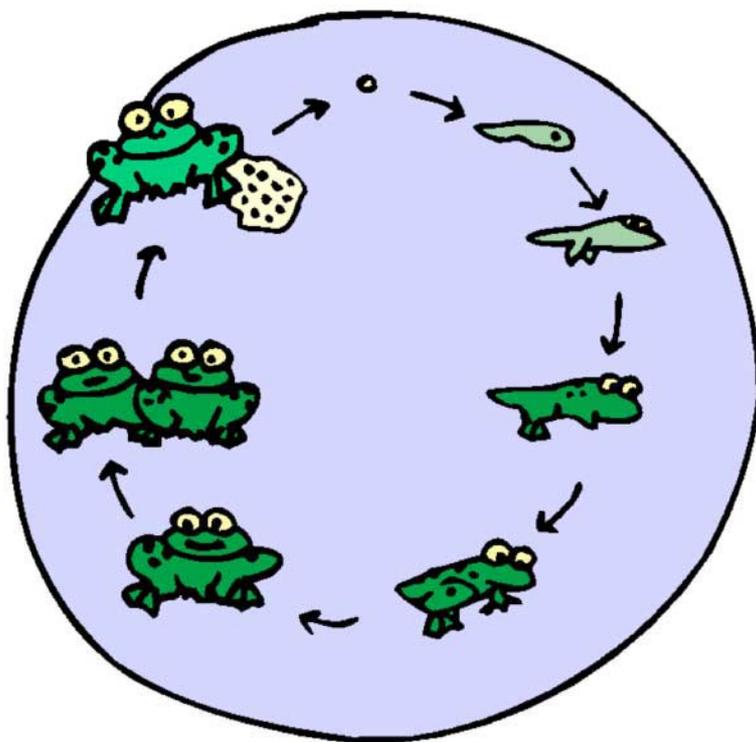
AMPHIBIANS
Amphibians have four legs, are born from eggs, live in water as babies and can move to land when grown.

Leap Frog!

Frogs can jump a distance of 10 times their body length.

Life Cycle of Frogs

A human baby looks very much like a tiny adult, but many animals look nothing like their parents when they are babies. They undergo a dramatic change from egg to adult. This change in form is called "metamorphosis". One creature which goes through this change, or "metamorphosis" is the frog. The eggs of the frog are known as spawn. Each egg is surrounded by a transparent, jelly-like substance. This jelly is so slippery that when any predators try to eat the spawn, they cannot hold on to it. The jelly also helps to let the sun's warmth through to the egg inside.



Frogs pass through three stages of development - egg, tadpole and adult frog. The tadpole grows from the round dot that can be seen inside each blob of jelly and while they are developing they feed on yolks, also contained in the jelly. Tadpoles have a head and body which is all in one and these tadpoles feed through gills. They have no legs at first and swim by means of a long tail. Gradually legs begin to sprout and the tail shrinks and is absorbed into the body. They also lose their gills and develop lungs, until they become tiny frogs.

Frogs take from three to four years to reach their full size and often live as long as 40 years.