

FROG



TADPOLE

LIFE
CYCLES



Words
in **bold** are
explained in the
glossary on
page 24.

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CYCLES

Page 4	What is a Life Cycle?
Page 5	What is a Frog?
Page 6	Eggs
Page 8	Tadpoles
Page 10	Growing Tadpoles
Page 12	Changing Tadpoles
Page 14	Frogs
Page 16	Fantastic Frogs
Page 18	Looking for Food
Page 20	World Record Breakers
Page 22	Life Cycle of a Frog
Page 23	Get Exploring!
Page 24	Glossary and Index



WHAT IS A LIFE CYCLE?

All animals, plants and humans go through different stages of their life as they grow and change. This is called a life cycle.



WHAT IS A FROG?

A frog is an amphibian. Amphibians are animals that can live in water and on land.



EGGS

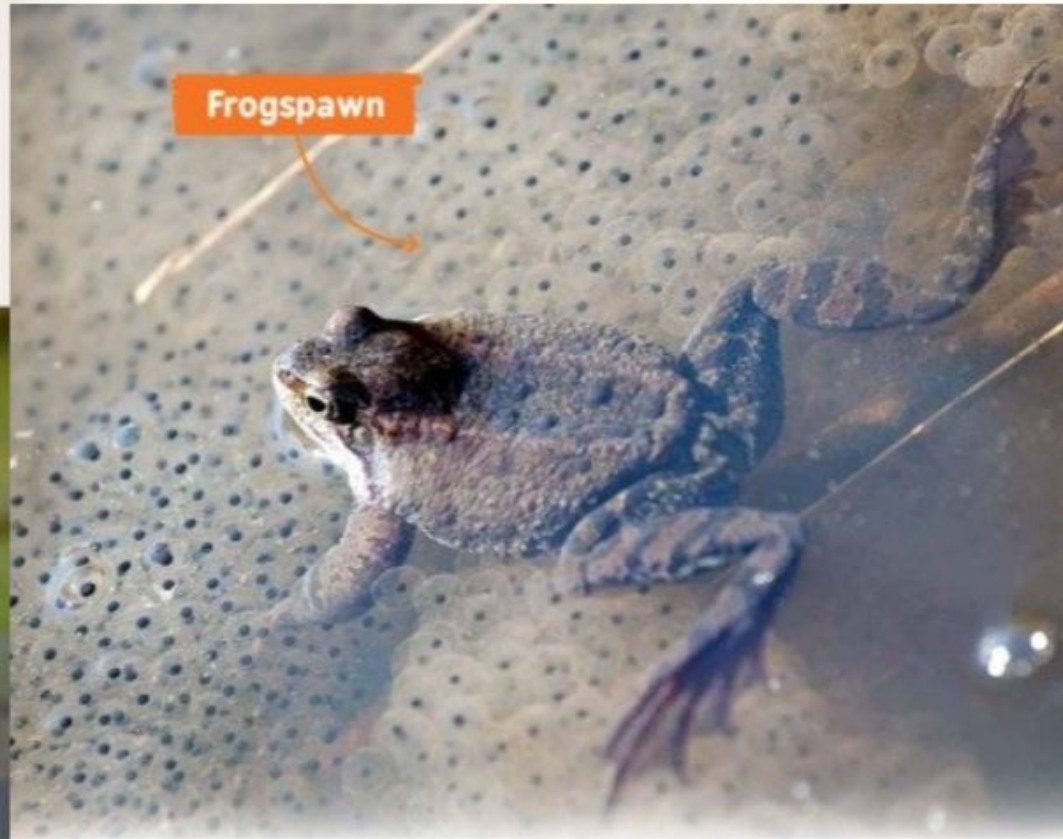
A female frog lays her eggs in fresh water, usually in a pond or a river. A frog's eggs are called frogspawn.

A female frog
can lay up to
20,000 eggs
at a time.



6

Frogspawn



Each egg has a tiny, black dot inside of it that is covered in a special kind of jelly. The eggs stick together in a big group in the water to keep them safe from **predators**.

7

TADPOLES

The tiny dots inside the eggs grow bigger and after around two weeks, the frogspawn **hatches**. A **tadpole** comes out of each egg by wriggling out of the jelly with its tail.



Egg



Tadpole

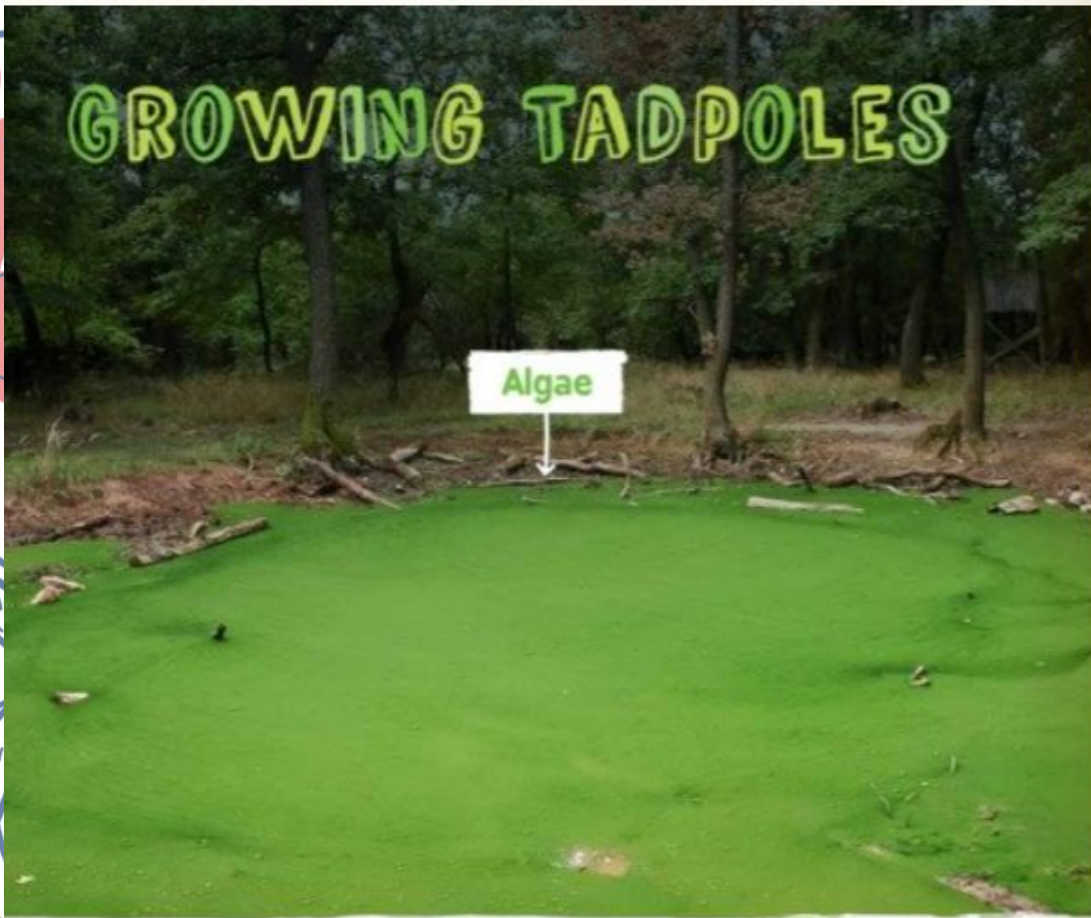


Tail

Gills

Tadpoles have very long tails that help them to swim quickly underwater. They also have gills that they use to breathe under the water, just like fish.

GROWING TADPOLES



Tadpoles eat very small plants called algae for food. Ponds usually look green because of the green algae that grows in them.



Tadpoles need lots of food to grow big and strong. They continue to eat the algae around them for around five weeks before the next stage of their life cycle begins.

CHANGING TADPOLES



Back Legs

Front Legs

As the tadpole grows bigger its body starts to change. Its tail becomes shorter and it grows four legs, two at the back and two at the front of its body.



The tadpole starts to grow lungs and comes up to the top of the water to breathe air. The tadpole has changed into a **froglet**.

FROGS

The froglet can now live in water and on land. If an animal can do both, it is said to be amphibious.

There are over
4,500 different
types of frog.



The froglet carries on growing until it becomes a fully grown adult frog. As it changes it loses the rest of its tail.



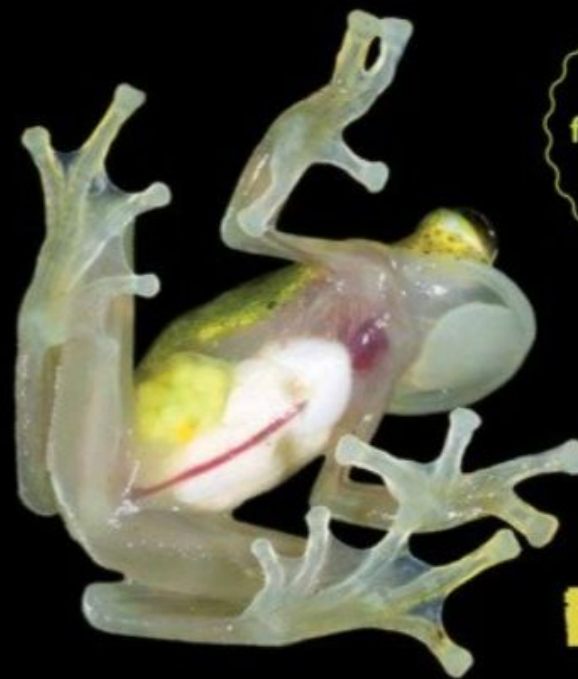
FANTASTIC FROGS

Sometimes, frogs can be very colourful. The Poison Dart frog lives in the rainforests of South America and can be many different colours.



Poison Dart Frog

The frog's brightly coloured skin warns other animals that they are **poisonous**, which stops them from being eaten by predators.



A group of frogs is called an 'army'.

Glass Frog

The glass frog is about 2 cm long. If you look underneath it, you can see inside its body! Have a look at the picture. What can you see inside the frog?

LOOKING FOR FOOD

Frogs can look in water and on land for their food. They mostly eat insects and sometimes even other frogs!



Worm



Fly



Frog



Frogs catch their food using their long tongues. The tips of their tongues are very sticky. This stops their food from getting away.

WORLD RECORD BREAKERS

Goliath frogs live in the rainforests of western Africa and have been known to eat bats!



20

The size of a Goliath frog!



Goliath Frog
The World's
Biggest Frog
Size:
Up to 32 cm long



Bullfrog
The Highest
Jumping Frog
Highest Jump:
2.2 metres

The highest jump ever recorded was at the Calaveras County Fair in America. Every year people get together to see who has the highest jumping frog!

21

LIFE CYCLE OF A FROG

1

A female frog lays her eggs in fresh water.



2

A tadpole wriggles out of each egg.



LIFE
CYCLES

The froglet grows into an adult frog.

4



The tadpole changes into a froglet.

3



GET EXPLORING!



Visit your nearest pond in the springtime. Can you see any frogspawn? What other animals can you see?