

How Tadpoles Grow

What is a tadpole?

A tadpole is one of the phases in the lifecycle of a frog, a cold-blooded amphibian. Amphibians are animals that can walk on land and can swim in water. The process in which a tadpole turns into a frog is called **metamorphosis**.

Where do tadpoles come from?

A mother frog lays about 4,000 eggs in a lake or pond. These eggs are very soft and have no shell.

After 3-6 weeks, tiny tadpoles hatch and swim around to find plants to feed on. The tadpoles still have gills so they can't leave the water until they develop into froglets.

What is a froglet?

In time, the tadpoles start to grow legs. Firstly, the hind legs appear. Then, the lungs begin to develop and finally the front legs appear. The tadpoles start to look more like frogs and are known as froglets. The froglets become more adventurous, but as a result many of them are eaten by large fish and water insects.

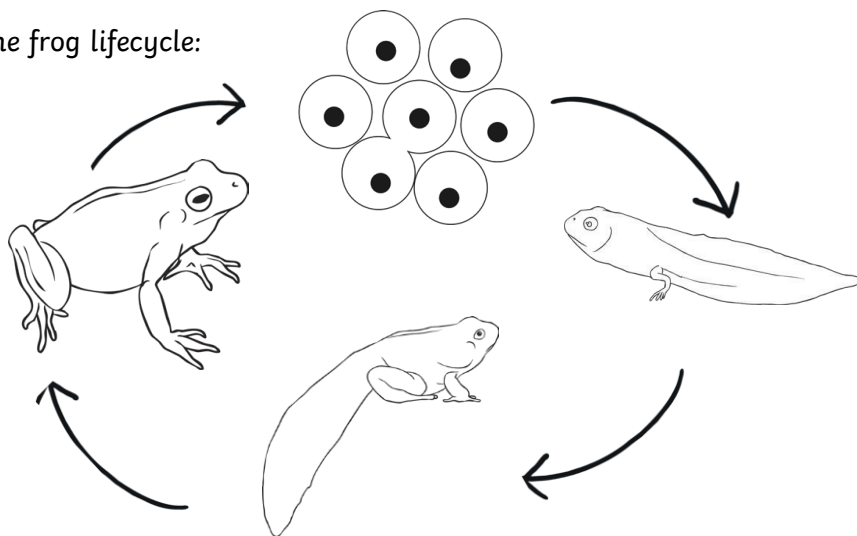
How do froglets come frogs?

After three months, the froglet's lungs are fully developed so they can get out of the water and breathe. Their tails will shrink away and vanish. The frogs are now fully grown. During winter, the frogs will hibernate at the bottom of the pond.

Did you know?

A key feature of an amphibian is that the animal is able to live on land and in water?

A diagram of the frog lifecycle:

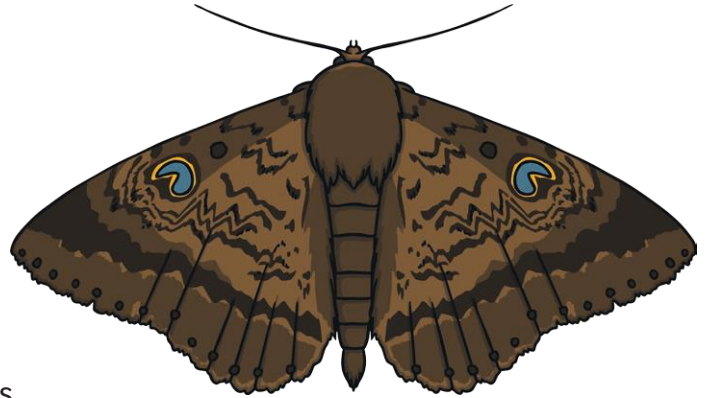


This picture shows the lifecycle of a frog, from the egg to the tadpole, to the froglet, to the frog.

The Life Cycle of a Moth

What is a moth?

A moth is an insect with two antennae and a small pair of wings. Moths also have feelers. Insects are animals that have 6 legs and lay eggs.



An adult moth

From egg to caterpillar

To begin with, a female moth uses her antennae to help choose the right plant to lay her eggs on. Three weeks later, the eggs hatch and baby caterpillars come out. The baby caterpillars eat their own shell for nourishment. After they have finished eating their shell, they move on to eating leaves and other plants.

From caterpillar to pupa

As a result, the caterpillar grows quickly. Soon, it starts to shed its skin. At between 11 and 14 weeks of age, it starts to make a pupa to live in. While the caterpillar is inside its pupa, its body changes. Eventually, the pupa case will open and a lovely moth will come out.



This picture shows a leaf that a female moth may lay her eggs on.

Adult moths

Adult moths flit from plant to plant, feeding and growing. All moths have two sets of wings covered in tiny scales. They grow two eyes and big eye spots on their wings so that they can scare away predators. Their antennae are very sensitive.

Did you know?

For the lifecycle of the moth to begin again, the female moth must lay her eggs on a leaf.