

THE LIFE CYCLE of A FROG

EGGS



All amphibians start out as eggs. Frog eggs are soft and squishy and are surrounded by a jelly-like substance that keeps them from drying out. The water content in the jelly provides oxygen for the developing larvae (LAR-vee).

TADPOLE



The larvae grow and become tadpoles with a round body, mouth and tail. Tadpoles eat plants that grow in the water. As they become bigger and stronger, their long tails allow them to swim.

TADPOLE WITH LEGS

The first sign that a tadpole is turning into a froglet is the appearance of back legs. By now, the diet may grow to include larger items such as dead insects and plants. At the end of this stage, the tadpole has sprouted tiny front legs and looks like a small frog with a long tail.



FROGLET



The froglet has only a small, stubby tail and looks like a miniature version of an adult frog. Its head is defined and it has front and back legs.

FROG

By the time it reaches adulthood, the frog's gills have disappeared and its lungs are fully developed. However, frogs don't just breathe with their lungs. They can take in oxygen through their skin as well. The transformation from tadpole to adult frog is called metamorphosis. This process can take anywhere from a few days to a few years depending on the type of frog and the water temperature.

FROG FACTS



A New Skin

Frogs shed their skin about once a week. They pull it over their heads like a shirt and eat it. Frog skin is full of nutrients.

Cold Blood?

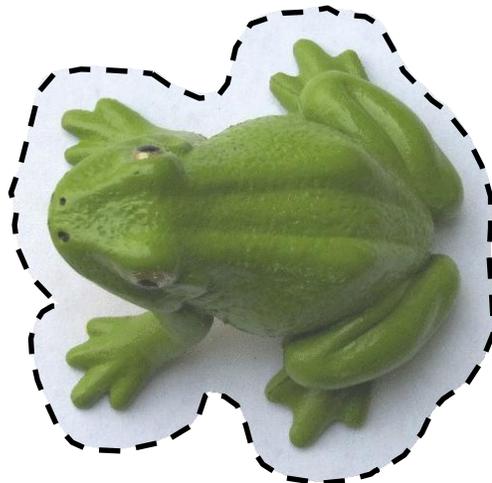
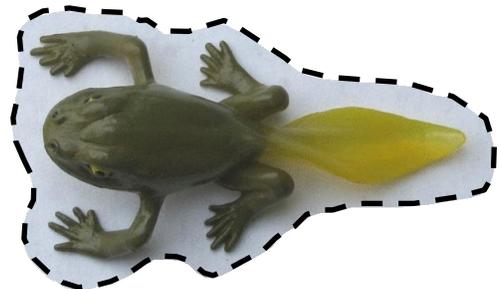
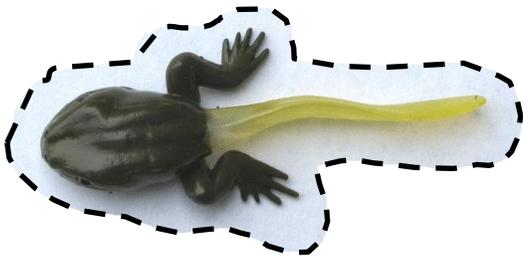
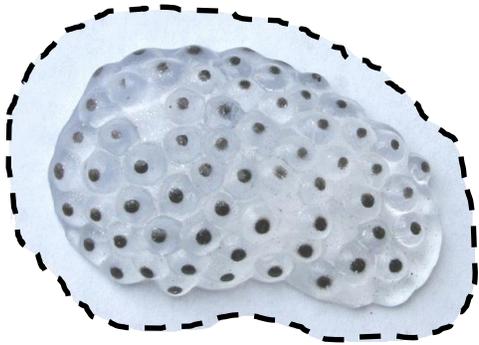
Amphibians are "cold-blooded" creatures, but their blood is not really cold. Amphibians do not regulate their body temperature, so they are the same temperature as their environment. They are most active on warm days.

Bullfrogs

Bullfrogs are common in Boise but they are not native to Idaho. Bullfrogs sometimes eat smaller frogs and compete for habitat.

LIFE CYCLE *of* A FROG CUT-OUTS

Cut out and paste onto lily pads.

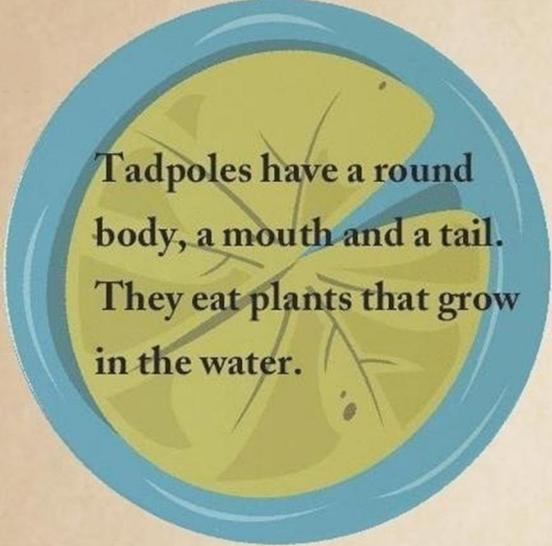


Life of a Frog

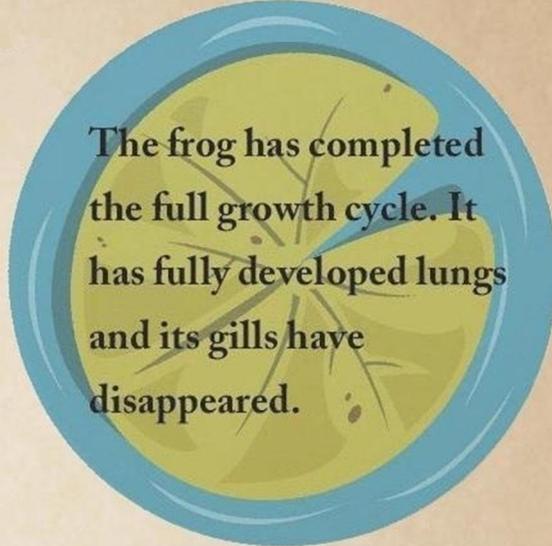


Parks &
Recreation

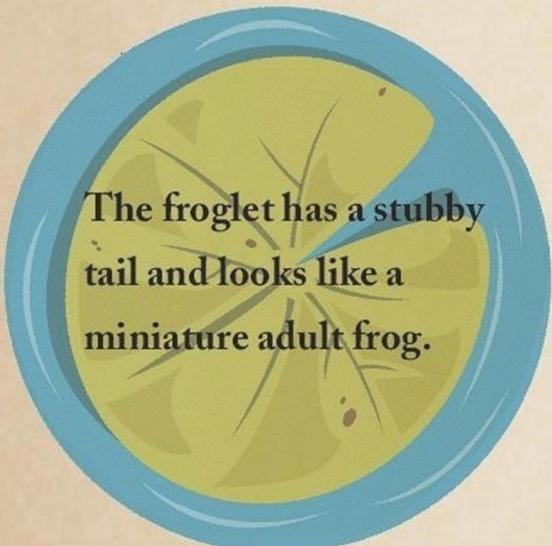
Match the frog's lifecycle stage to the correct lily pad

A circular illustration of a lily pad with a blue border and a green center. The lily pad has several veins radiating from the center. A small tadpole is visible near the bottom right edge of the lily pad.

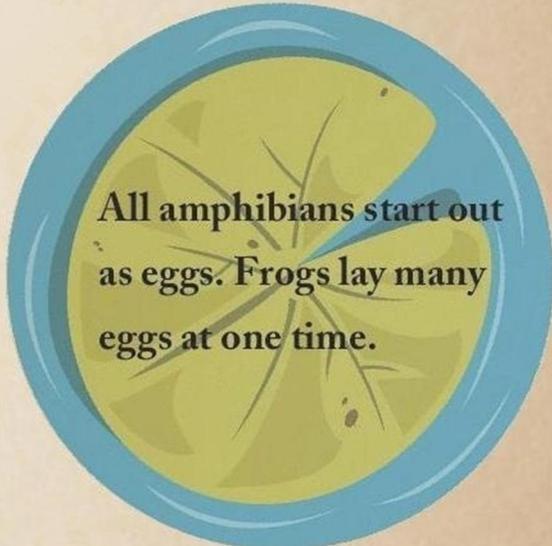
Tadpoles have a round body, a mouth and a tail. They eat plants that grow in the water.

A circular illustration of a lily pad with a blue border and a green center. The lily pad has several veins radiating from the center. A small froglet is visible near the bottom right edge of the lily pad.

The frog has completed the full growth cycle. It has fully developed lungs and its gills have disappeared.

A circular illustration of a lily pad with a blue border and a green center. The lily pad has several veins radiating from the center. A small froglet is visible near the bottom right edge of the lily pad.

The froglet has a stubby tail and looks like a miniature adult frog.

A circular illustration of a lily pad with a blue border and a green center. The lily pad has several veins radiating from the center. A small cluster of frog eggs is visible near the bottom right edge of the lily pad.

All amphibians start out as eggs. Frogs lay many eggs at one time.

A circular illustration of a lily pad with a blue border and a green center. The lily pad has several veins radiating from the center. A small tadpole is visible near the bottom right edge of the lily pad.

The appearance of back legs is the first sign that the tadpole is becoming a froglet.