

Amphibians

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Common Core Standards

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.1.1

Ask and answer questions about key details in a text.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.1.5

Know and use various text features (e.g., headings, tables of contents, glossaries, electronic menus, icons) to locate key facts or information in a text.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.1.6

Distinguish between information provided by pictures or other illustrations and information provided by the words in a text.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.1.10

With prompting and support, read informational texts appropriately complex for grade 1.

Chapter

1-Characteristics

Amphibians are a type of animal that live both on land and in water. They can be found all over the world except in Greenland and Antarctica. Frogs are the most common type of amphibian, but there are actually 5,743 different **species** of amphibians.

Trait	Yes	No
Vertebrates	X	
Lay Eggs	X	
Live in Salt Water		X
Cold Blooded	X	

Other Characteristics

- Moist, smooth skin that is protected by a layer of mucus

- Webbed feet
- Lay many eggs in water
- Live in freshwater
- Have gills to breath under water
- Develop lungs to breath on land
- Go through a metamorphosis

Amphibians

There are many groups (classes) of animals. Amphibians are in one group.

There are also many different groups (orders) of amphibians.

All amphibians share some traits.

lay eggs in water

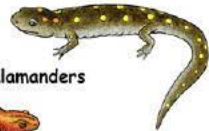
cold blooded

young live in water, breathing with gills,
while adults use lungs

return to water to mate



Frogs and Toads



Salamanders



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Chapter

2-Metamorphosis

The word “**Amphibian**” means *two lives*.

Amphibians live the first part of their lives in the water and the second part on land. Their bodies go through a **Metamorphosis** which is a change in shape and abilities.



Life Cycle of a Frog

Three stages of Metamorphosis

- Egg
- Larvae
- Adult

EGG

Eggs are laid in masses and covered in a jelly-like substance, some amphibians can lay as many as 4,000 eggs. The eggs are **spawned** in or around water.



Larvae

The eggs hatch into larvae. The larvae have gills for breathing and tails for swimming underwater. After a few weeks, they begin to lose their tails and grow arms and legs. They also grow lungs inside their body so they can breath on land.



Spotted Salamander Larvae

Adult

Once the animal's arms, legs, and lungs are fully developed it can survive outside of water.

Amphibians have moist, wet skin that is covered by a protective layer of mucus. This mucus layer allows the animals to breathe through their skin.



Adult Fire Salamander

Chapter 3- Types of Amphibians



Frogs & Toads

- Short bodies
- Webbed fingers and toes
- Bulging eyes
- No tail

Salamanders & Newts

- Skinny bodies
- Short legs
- Long tails

Caecilians

- No legs or arms
- Look like worms
- Strong skull
- Pointed nose
- Can be up to 4 ft long

What do these three types of amphibians all have in common?

Chapter 4- Habitat

Where they Live

Amphibians live in many different environments. They like wet places and need water. Many return to water to **spawn**.

Environments

- Streams
- Forests
- Meadows
- Bogs
- Swamps
- Ponds
- Rainforests
- Lakes

Why do amphibians need to live near wet environments?

What they Eat

During the Larvae stage amphibians are **herbivores**. They feed on aquatic plants and algae.

As adults they are **carnivores**. They will feed on many types of insects and **invertebrates**.

Food Sources

- Spiders
- Beetles
- Worms
- Mosquitos
- Flying insects

Very large Amphibians

- Snakes
- Shrews
- Mice
- Fish
- Other amphibians

Glossary

Herbivores- Animals that eat plant material.

Carnivores- Animals that are meat eaters.

Invertebrates- Animals that have no backbone.

Spawn- A large amount of eggs deposited by animals.

Vertebrates- animals that have a spine or a backbone.

Cold Blooded- animals whose bodies don't automatically regulate their temperature. Their bodies remain the same temperature as the air or water around them.

Species- a group of animals or plants that are similar and can produce young animals or plants.

Media Attributions

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- Amphibians. *Dialogue for kids*. Idaho Public Television. March 2014. <http://idahoptv.org/dialogue4kids/season9/amphibians/facts.cfm>

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