

# Growing Up Salamander

Many salamanders have a life cycle similar to frogs and toads. They begin by emerging from eggs as larvae and later change into adults. This transformation is called **metamorphosis**.

Adult female salamanders lay eggs in the spring, summer or fall. The eggs are laid individually, in small or large masses or in long strands. Eggs are laid in a moist environment, often a pond or **vernal pool** but sometimes under rocks or logs. A **vernal pool** is a seasonal pool of water that typically forms in the spring. They are usually dry by summer but may refill in autumn.

Salamanders and other amphibians like to breed in **vernal pools**, because predatory fish do not live there. Many species **brood** or stay with their eggs to protect them from predators until they hatch.

Eggs that are laid in ponds or streams hatch into larvae that must live in the water. The larvae look like miniature adults but with feathery gills extending near their

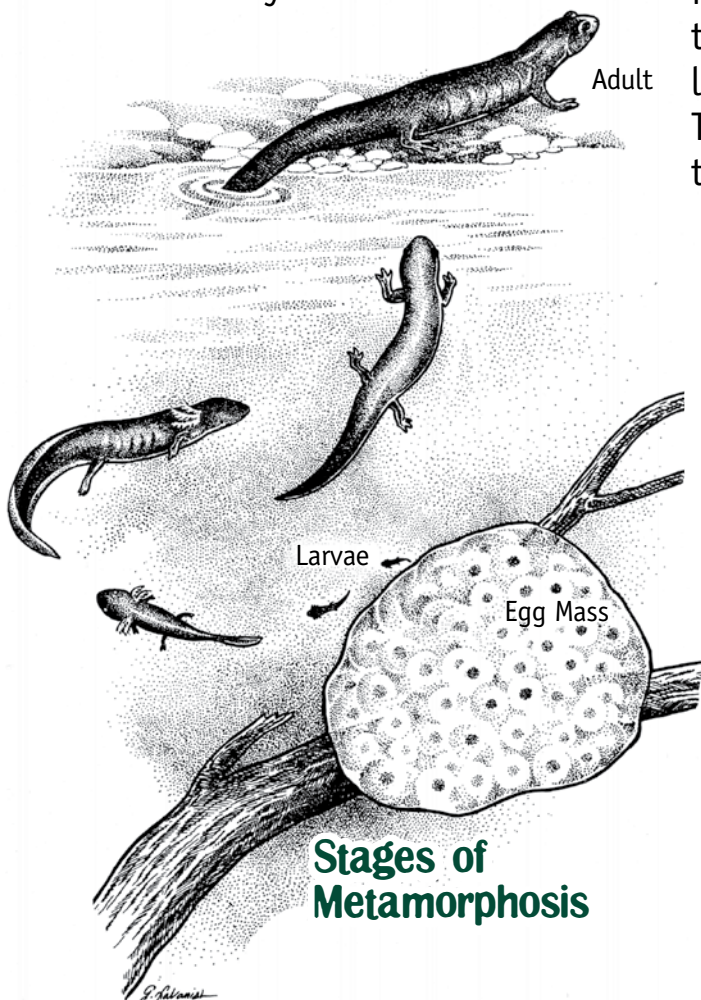
necks. The salamanders may remain larvae for a few weeks or even years, depending on the species. Pennsylvania salamanders that lay eggs on land do not have a larval stage. These salamanders develop fully while in the egg and hatch as miniature adults.



Marbled Salamander



Northern Dusky Salamander



## Pennsylvania salamanders without a larval stage:

- Eastern Redback Salamander
- Green Salamander
- Northern Ravine Salamander
- Northern Slimy Salamander
- Valley and Ridge Salamander
- Wehrle's Salamander

## VOCABULARY

(Watch for these words!)

**Brood** • **Carnivores** • **Larval**  
**Metamorphosis** • **Neoteny** • **Vernal pool**

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