

Growing Up Amphibian

Frogs and toads are a type of animal called an amphibian. Amphibians don't just hatch from eggs and look like adults. They go through metamorphosis.

The first stage of the life cycle is egg development. Adult frogs and toads lay hundreds or thousands of eggs in a jelly-like mass in lakes, ponds or even puddles. The eggs hatch usually within one or two weeks.

When the eggs hatch, tadpoles emerge. Tadpoles are a body with a tail, mouth, eyes and gills. They wiggle their tails to move around and feed on algae. Tadpoles may live this way for a few weeks or up to two years, depending on the species or type of frog and where they live.

Eventually, the tadpoles enter the froglet or toadlet stage and will grow lungs and start breathing air. Next, their skin grows over their gills. The back legs start growing and the front legs follow. The tail is absorbed into the body, and the young froglets and toadlets climb out of the water to explore land for the first time.

The froglets and toadlets then mature to adults. They no longer feed on algae but are now predators that can move freely between land and water.

Cut out the puzzle pieces, and fit them in the correct life cycle order.

