

Amphibians

There are 4000 different types of amphibians. Amphibian means two lives – one in water and one on land. Amphibians hatch from eggs. They have gills so they can breathe in water. They also have fins so they can swim. Later their bodies change growing legs and lungs enabling them to live on land.

Where do Amphibians live?

Amphibians start their life by living in the water then they move onto the land. They live in different habitats – streams, forests, meadows, swamps, ponds, lakes and rainforests.

What do Amphibians eat?

Amphibians eat a variety of foods including spiders, beetles and worms. Frogs have long tongues with sticky ends that they flick to catch their prey.

Examples of Amphibians

Frogs

Frogs lay eggs in water. The eggs hatch into a tadpole that lives in water. Although frogs live on land their habitat must be near swamps, ponds or in a damp place. This is because they will die if their skin dries up.

Salamander



There are about 400 species of salamander. The largest amphibian is the Chinese salamander. Salamanders look like lizards with four legs and a tail. They are mostly brightly coloured with spots or stripes. Salamanders especially like dark, wet places like the woods.

Toads

Toads have a drier, wart- covered leathery skin and shorter legs than a frog. They can also live further away from water. Some examples of toads are the common toad and cane toad. Toads are usually nocturnal. They do not have teeth, so they do not chew their food, instead they swallow it whole. Toads may also play dead or puff themselves up to appear bigger if they feel threatened by a predator.

Interesting facts

- Frogs can see forwards, sideways and upwards all at the same time. They never close their eyes even when they sleep.
- A frog uses its eyeballs to assist them in swallowing food – they push the food down their throat by pushing down the eyeballs.