

From Spawn to Frog

1 **The tadpole**

Then the embryo leaves its jelly shell and attaches itself to a weed in the water. It is now a tadpole – a baby frog. The tadpoles are too small to swim away from this weed, which is now their food as well as their home. They grow until they are big enough and strong enough to break free from the weed and swim in the water. They eat other weeds and small plants called algae.

8 **The tadpole begins to change**

After about five weeks, the tadpole begins to change. It starts to grow hind legs. Behind its head, bulges appear where its front legs are growing. Its tail becomes smaller. Lungs begin to develop, preparing the frog for its life on land. Now and then, the tadpole wiggles to the surface to breathe in air. It eats plants, frogs' eggs and other tadpoles.

15 **Almost there**

Over time, the tadpole becomes even more frog-like. It sheds its skin and lips. Its mouth widens, and it loses its horny jaws. The tail becomes much smaller, and the legs grow. The lungs are almost functioning at this point.

20 **The frog**

Eleven weeks after the egg was laid, a fully developed frog with lungs, legs, and no tail emerges from the water. To start with, it is very tiny, and is called a froglet. This froglet will live mostly on land, with occasional swims. The tiny froglet begins to eat insects and worms. Eventually, it grows and becomes a big frog. It will find a mate. The female lays the eggs and the whole process begins again.



Challenge 3

1 What does the text say a baby frog is called?

2 From the first section, **find** and **copy** a word that describes how the tiny tadpole first uses the weed.

3 **Find** and **copy two** things that the text says the tadpole eats.

4 Tick the best heading for the first three paragraphs. Tick **one**.

The embryo Tadpoles

What tadpoles eat How frogs grow

5 Write numbers to show the order in which this text describes how tadpoles begin to change.

tail shrinks lungs develop

back legs grow front legs grow

6 “**Almost there**” (paragraph 3). What is the function of this heading?

7 “*The lungs are almost functioning at this point.*” (paragraph 3)

In this sentence, the word “*functioning*” is closest in meaning to which option? Tick **one**.

running watching

working solid

8 List **two** ways from the text that frogs are different from tadpoles.

9 Tick **two** sentences which you might find in a text like this.

Freddy the frog hopped happily across the lily pad.

A tadpole breathes through gills in the side of its head.

If you lick a frog every morning before breakfast, the day can only get better.

Day 74: One of the froglets left the pond today.

Tadpoles swim by wiggling their tails.

Challenge 3

Write the question number and then answer the questions:

Answers: