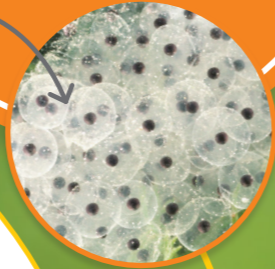


Packed with fascinating facts about life cycles

Labeled diagrams to explain growth and development

Eggs



What is frogspawn?

How do tadpoles swim?

When do tadpoles become frogs?

Are you ready to start at the beginning?

Amazing photographs of every stage



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FROM TADPOLE TO FROG

CAMILLA DE LA BÉDOYÈRE

LifeCycles



From

TADPOLE
to
FROG

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Camilla de la Bédoyère





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Words in **bold** are explained in the glossary on page 22.

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WHAT IS A FROG?

A frog is an **amphibian**. It spends part of its life living in water, and part of its life on land.

Toads and newts are also amphibians. Toads walk or crawl, but frogs jump.



A newt has a long, thin body and a tail.



Eye

Common frogs have smooth, damp skin and golden eyes.

Amphibians lay their eggs in water. They live in wet places, often near ponds or lakes.



Foot

Most toads have bumpy skin.

THE STORY OF A FROG

A young frog is called a **tadpole**. It looks different than an adult frog.

This small animal begins its life as an egg. The amazing story of how it becomes an adult frog is called its **life cycle**.



Eggs



Tadpole

Adult frog



A frog has three stages in its life cycle: egg, tadpole, and adult.

FROGSPAWN

It is spring, and time for frogs to mate. Males croak loudly so the females can find them.

A male holds on to a female and she lays her eggs. He covers them with a liquid. It fertilizes the eggs.

Only fertilized eggs grow into tadpoles. The eggs are as soft as jelly. They stick together in a big clump called **frogspawn**.

The frogspawn swells and floats to the surface of the water.

INSIDE THE EGGS

The adult frogs swim away.
They do not take care
of the eggs.

Many of the eggs are eaten by
fish and other pond animals.
But some survive, and their
tadpoles keep growing.

A female frog
may lay hundreds
of eggs at a time.

After a few weeks, the
eggs hatch. They open up
and a tadpole wriggles
out of each one.

Inside each
egg, a tadpole
is growing. It
feeds on a
small yolk.

TINY TADPOLES

Tadpoles are tiny when they hatch, but they quickly grow.

Each tadpole has a long tail, which it uses to swim. It has feathery **gills** on either side of its head. A tadpole uses gills to breathe underwater.

To begin with, tadpoles just eat small, green water plants.

Tadpoles eat and grow. They grow faster when they live in warm water with plenty of food.



After a few weeks, the gills have disappeared. Now the tadpoles can eat pond animals, such as insects and water fleas.

Tail



Gills

THE BIG CHANGE

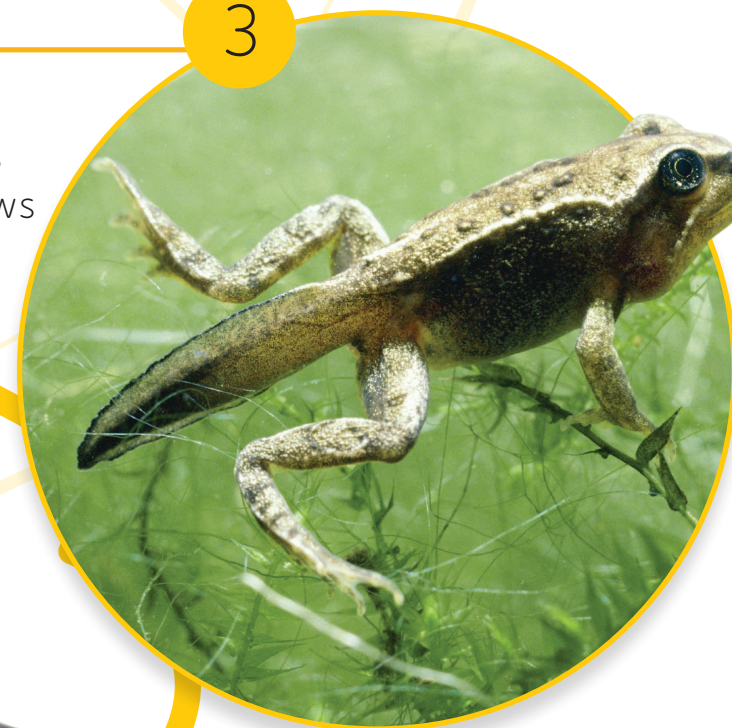
When they are about seven weeks old, tadpoles begin to change into frogs.



The tadpole's back legs grow first.



Then its front legs begin to grow.



As its legs grow longer, the tail grows shorter.



The tadpoles now look like tiny frogs and they can leave the pond.



By the time it is 12 weeks old, the tiny frog is about 1 1/4 inch (3 cm) long.

FROGLETS

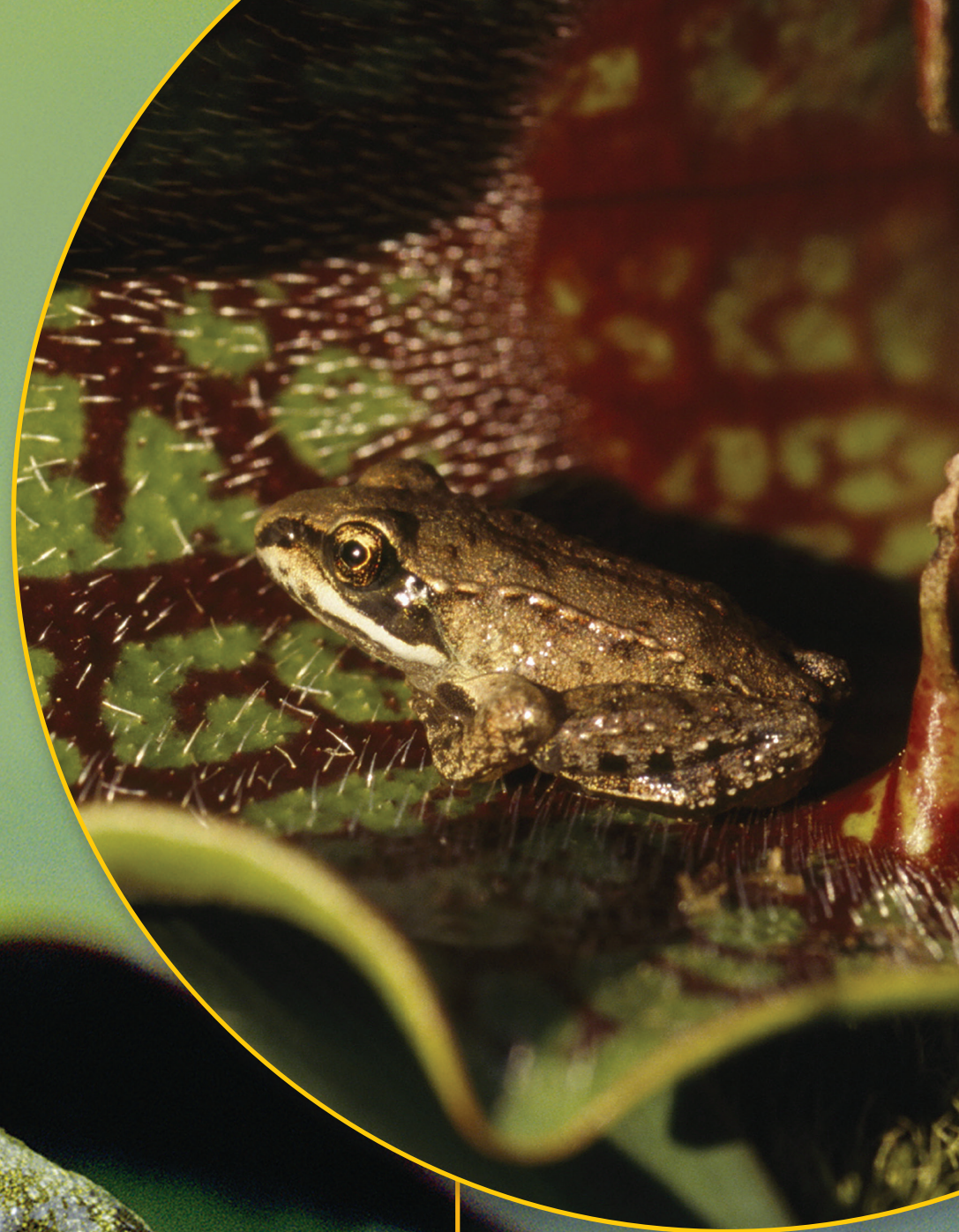
The little frogs keep growing, and their tails disappear. They are now called froglets.

The froglets stay in, or near, water. They feed on small **insects**, which they catch with their long, sticky tongues.

Froglets can swim, crawl, hop, and climb onto the floating leaves of lilies.

When they are bigger, the froglets move away from their pond.

They find a safe place under some plants, where they can hide.



This froglet is hiding in a pitcher plant in the woods.

THE LIFE OF A FROG

Adult frogs spend most of their time on land.

Frogs rest during the day. In the evening they hunt for insects, slugs, and worms.

Many frogs have green, gray, or brown skin. It is hard to see them when they sit still on plants, or under a pile of dead leaves. This is called **camouflage**.

Camouflage helps a frog to hide from animals that want to eat it.

Frogs can make huge leaps to catch food with their long tongues.

Tongue



NOTES FOR PARENTS AND TEACHERS



Look through the book and talk about the pictures.



Teach children how to stay safe while investigating animals and their life cycles, especially when they are around water.



Teach children how to observe and, if appropriate, handle animals with care. They should observe animals in their natural environment, without disturbing wildlife and their habitats. Frogspawn should not be moved from one pond to another, as this allows viruses and other diseases to spread.



Draw the life cycle of a frog and label the different stages together.



Visit a wildlife garden or park together and learn about pond habitats. Talk about the ways that a habitat provides an animal with the food and shelter it needs to survive. Find out which other animals live in a pond habitat.



Be prepared for questions about human life cycles. Talking about a child's family helps them to link life processes, such as reproduction, to their own experience. Drawing simple family trees and looking at photo albums are fun ways to engage young children.

