

Salamander

Classification:

Kingdom : Animalia
Phylum : Chordata
Class : Reptilia
Order : Urodela
Genus : Salamander



For further details, [Link](#)

Characteristics :

- Salamanders are four-limbed amphibians, with smooth, moist skin, long tails, and a lizard-like appearance, though they lack claws and scales. They are cold-blooded, requiring moist habitats like those found in woods and near water, and are often nocturnal.
- **Appearance:** They generally have a slender body, a relatively long tail, and short legs that project from their sides.
- **Skin:** Their skin is moist and smooth, not scaled like a lizard's.
- **Size:** Size varies greatly by species, with most being small, but some, like the Chinese giant salamander, can reach over 6 feet in length.
- **Limbs:** They are typically four-limbed, though some species have fewer or even lack hind limbs.
- **Coloration:** Colour patterns are diverse, ranging from camouflage to bright, bold colours to warn predators.
- **Reduced or Absent External Ears:** Most salamanders lack external ears, relying on vibrations in the ground for sensory input.
- **Regeneration:** A hallmark trait is their extraordinary ability to regenerate lost limbs and even internal organs, a feat unmatched by most other tetrapods.
- **Autotomy (Tail Shedding):** Some species can shed their tails as a defence mechanism to escape predators and can regrow a new one.

Habitat:

- **Moist Environments:** Salamanders require damp habitats to breathe through their skin and prevent dehydration.
- **Shelter:** They hide under logs, rocks, leaf litter, and in burrows or tree cavities.
- **Water:** Many species live in or near creeks, ponds, lakes, and wetlands.
- **Forests:** Terrestrial species are often found in shady, forested areas with plenty of decaying organic matter.
- **Specialized Habitats:** Some salamanders live in unique environments like fast-moving rivers (e.g., the giant salamander) or underground cave pools (e.g., the olm).

Habits:

- **Nocturnal Behaviour:** Most salamanders are active at night, hunting for food like insects, slugs, and earthworms.
- **Breeding Migration:** Many species migrate from their terrestrial homes to water bodies in the spring to breed.
- **Breathing:** They breathe through their moist skin (cutaneous respiration) and, in some species, simple lungs.
- **Diet:** Salamanders are carnivores, feeding on small invertebrates.
- **Burrowing:** Many species burrow into the damp earth to escape temperature extremes and hide.
- **Terrestrial vs. Aquatic:** Some species spend their entire lives in water, while others are fully terrestrial or live in water only during specific life stages.