

Tadpole

Classification

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: Amphibia

Order: Anura



For further details [link](#)

Habit and habitat

Feeding: Tadpoles are generally herbivorous, consuming algae and other plants, but their diets and foraging behaviors can vary.

Movement: Newly hatched tadpoles are often stationary, but as they develop, they become free-swimming and more mobile.

Terrestrial: Some tadpoles can be found in wet crevices on land.

Brackish water: The crab-eating frog's tadpoles can tolerate somewhat salty, brackish water.

Fast-flowing streams: Stream-dwelling tadpoles use a strong oral sucker to hold on to rocks in turbulent water.

Characteristics

- Most tadpoles are black or dark brown and limbless but sport a tail longer than their head length.
- Toad and frog tadpoles have rounded, bulbous heads and a tail that undulates laterally. They have external skin-covered gills to breathe underwater, and many species have a 'cement' gland that newly hatched pollywogs use to grip solid objects.
- Depending on the species, tadpoles range from 1.3 inches long. *Pseudis paradoxa* is the longest tadpole. It can reach 11 inches before developing into a 1.3-to-3-inch adult.
- Frog tadpoles: Many have bulbous heads with mottled brown or gray sides and a darker tail stripe. Some species' tails are just as wide as their heads, whereas other species have skinny tails.
- Frog and toad tadpoles are chiefly herbivores. They eat plankton and decaying plant matter, such as duckweed, and have long spiral-shaped guts to digest it. However, during shortages, frogs and toad tadpoles eat anything they can find in the water, including insects and carrion.
- The frog *Ceratophryidea* family are carnivores. They swallow flies, aquatic insects, worms, and younger pollywogs whole.

Tadpole Lifecycle

- A tadpole (or pollywog) lifestyle is complex. Like butterflies and moths, metamorphosis transitions amphibians from egg to tadpole to adult.
- Frog eggs look like eyeballs, and they have no shells. A black dot in the center is the developing tadpole, and a transparent jelly-like protective sphere surrounds it. Frog spawn, as it's called, rests in squishy rounded clumps with up to thousands of eggs inside.
- 0-4 weeks = gills and tail but no legs
- 4-16 weeks = developing back and front legs and disappearing tail
- 16 weeks = fully formed froglet