

How Do Tadpoles Grow?

Frogs are cold-blooded amphibians. Amphibians are animals that can walk on land and can swim in water.

The process in which a tadpole turns into a frog is called **metamorphosis**.

A mother frog lays about 4,000 eggs in a lake or pond. These eggs are very soft and have no shell.

After 3-6 weeks, tiny tadpoles hatch and swim around to find plants to feed on. The tadpoles still have gills so they can't leave the water.

In time, the tadpoles start to grow legs. Firstly, the hind legs appear. Then, the lungs begin to develop and finally the front legs appear. The tadpoles start to look more like frogs and are known as froglets. The froglets become more adventurous, but as a result many of them are eaten by large fish and water insects.

After three months, the froglet's lungs are fully developed so they can get out of the water and breathe. Their tails will shrink away and vanish.

The frogs are now fully grown. During winter, the frogs will hibernate at the bottom of the pond.

