

Frog Cycle

Female frogs lay their eggs in water. Can you believe that they can lay over 4,000 eggs at one time? Why so many? Because most of them will be eaten by fish or other animals. Only a handful (10-20) will make to adulthood.



After just 10 days, the frogs begin to hatch. They will have gills, like fish, instead of lungs that breathe air like people, or dogs.



After 21 days the tadpole has grown and will hold onto a weed in the water. He has a long tail and hides in the weeds. He breathes with gills like a fish and swims using his tail.



After 5 weeks of growing the tadpole begins to change. It starts to grow his hind (back) legs.



After 8 weeks the tadpole's front legs will start to appear. His lungs are also starting to grow so that soon he can live on land.



In a couple of weeks, his tail begins to disappear and he's looking more like a frog, though not quite there. Even with a tail, at this stage, he can live on land.



After 11 weeks we see a frog. He has lungs to breathe with, legs big enough for hopping and now he does not have a tail. Frogs will mostly live on land. They eat insects, catching them with their long, sticky tongue. They also eat small fish and worms. In cold weather they will dig down into the mud and hibernate (sleep very deeply) through the winter.

