

LEARN AT CHESTER ZOO

L.O: To compare and contrast the life cycle of mammals, amphibians, birds and insects.

LIFE CYCLE OF A COMMON TOAD

Photocopy on to card. Cut out the individual cards with images and annotations. Keep together as a set of cards to create a life cycle.



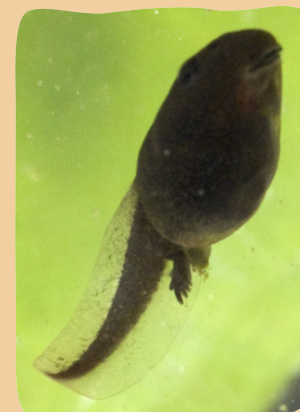
EGGS

These eggs are laid in long triple-stranded strings (toad spawn). The male clutches the female from behind in an embrace and fertilises the eggs as she lays them in the waterweeds.



TADPOLES HATCH FROM THE EGGS

Tadpoles hatch after 2 to 4 weeks. They are black and may form shoals.



TADPOLES START TO CHANGE (METAMORPHOSE)

Tadpoles begin to grow their back legs after about 16 weeks, followed by front legs.



TOADLETS

This is when they have fully absorbed their tails, they leave the water as tiny toadlets, usually after rain.



ADULT TOAD

Adult toads may grow up to 8 cm in length and adult females can grow up to 13 cm in length. They are generally brown or olive-brown but may even be darker. They have a warty and relatively dry skin. They tend to crawl, not hop.



OVER THE WINTER

Toadlets and adults spend winter buried in mud, under compost or amongst dead wood. They do not really hibernate because they may come out and forage when the weather is milder.