

LEARN AT CHESTER ZOO

THE AMPHIBIAN LIFE CYCLE

EXAMPLES
Frogs, toads, salamanders (e.g. a newt)
and caecilians.

After 2 to 4 years it will become an adult and the female can then lay eggs.



THE ADULT
This is the animal when it is fully grown and developed.

Generally, the female lays a large number of eggs at one time; they often do so in groups, all depositing eggs in the same place at the same time (possibly to ensure some survive). The eggs are generally laid in water but some species may lay them in something else e.g. mud. The eggs are fertilised by the male.



YOUNG (JUVENILE) AMPHIBIAN
The juvenile amphibian can live on land.



EGG MASS
They are usually covered in a jelly-like substance, to provide protection and to keep them moist.

EXTRA INFORMATION

Reproduction is usually sexual reproduction.
Most salamanders use their sense of smell to find a mate, but frogs use mating calls.
There are some salamander and caecilian species as well as many frog species that brood their eggs (look after their eggs) until they hatch. Some frogs, salamanders and caecilians care for their young when hatched.

After between 2 and 25 days the larva/ tadpole hatches from an egg.

The tail disappears.



LARVA/ TADPOLE



LARVA/ TADPOLE
This is a form very different from the adult form. Early in development they look similar to fish and have a tail to swim and gills to breathe.

Tadpole grows fins and begins metamorphosis (changing to adult form). It develops hind legs and lungs. The front legs then develop and the tail shortens; it uses its tail as food. It is developing to be suited to life on land.



LARVA/ TADPOLE

The larva/ tadpole swims and eats plants and breathes through the gills.