

Amphibians



Amphibians are vertebrates that live in water and on land. Vertebrates are animals with backbones.

Which animals are amphibians?

There are around 8000 types of amphibians around the world. They include:

- frogs
- toads
- newts



What do they look like?

- They come in different sizes and colours.
- Many have smooth, moist skin with no scales.
- Most have four legs but some have no legs at all.

Many amphibians change as they get older. The change is called metamorphosis. Frogs are a type of amphibian which go through metamorphosis.

- Frogs lay eggs in water. These are called frogspawn.
- The frogspawn hatch into tadpoles. They have tails and can only breathe in water through their gills.
- Tadpoles grow into small frogs. They lose their tails and develop lungs and legs.



Where do they live?

Amphibians can be found on every continent except for Antarctica. They like to live in damp places such as gardens, swamps and rainforests.

What do they eat?

Most eat small prey like slugs, worms and spiders. Larger amphibians can even eat mice, birds or bats.

Did you know...?

- Amphibians are cold blooded. Their body temperature changes so that it is the same as their surroundings.
- Nearly all amphibians lay eggs in or near water.