

Frog Life Cycle



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KEYWORDS

interesting

metamorphosis

amphibians

temperature

surrounding

thousands

embryo

transforms

tadpole

algae

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developed

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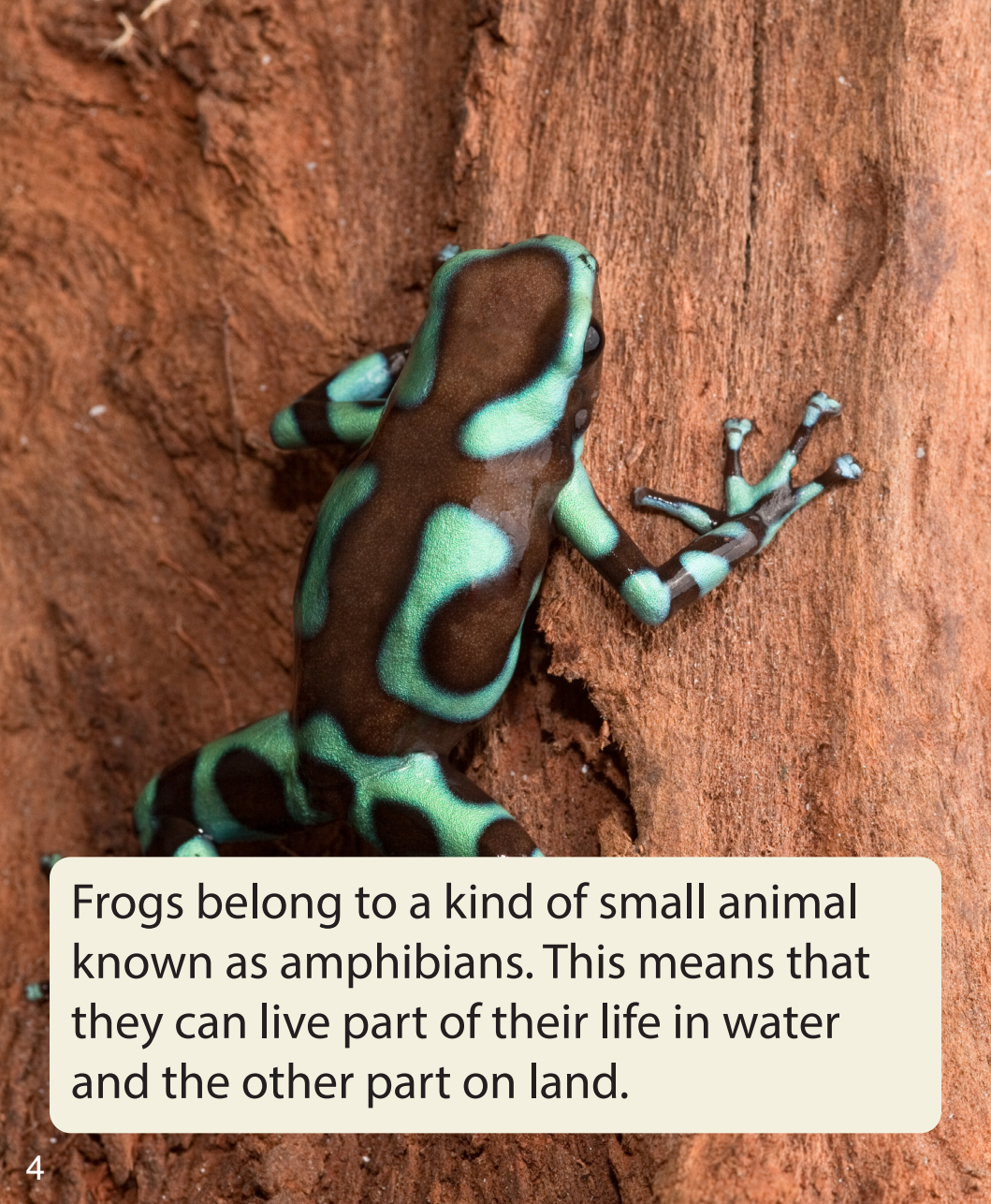




Frogs are one very interesting animal. Not only do they jump around a lot, frogs have a special life cycle where they go through metamorphosis.



Metamorphosis is the change of shape or form during an animal's life.



Frogs belong to a kind of small animal known as amphibians. This means that they can live part of their life in water and the other part on land.



Amphibians are cold-blooded animals. Their body temperature is the same as the surrounding temperature.



Frogs lay their eggs in water or wet places. A clump of eggs is called frog spawn. The eggs begin as a single cell and are covered in a jelly-like coating to protect them.



Hundreds or even thousands of eggs are laid at one time. But only a few will grow into frogs. Ducks, fish and insects will try to eat the eggs before they hatch.



Organs and gills begin to form inside the egg. This is called the embryo stage.



The embryo slowly transforms into the tadpole (or polliwog) over 21 days. The tadpole leaves its jelly shell.



The tadpole grows until it is big enough to swim with its long tail. The tadpole eats small plants and algae.



Tadpoles also face a lot of danger by being eaten by other water animals.



After about five or six weeks, the tadpole begins to change. It grows hind legs (back legs) and then forelegs (front legs).



Behind their heads, bulges start to appear. Their tails become smaller. Their lungs start to slowly develop.



Over time, the tadpole starts to become more and more frog-like. Their mouth widens. Their tail becomes smaller and their legs grow.



Eleven to twelve weeks after the egg was laid, the frog is fully-grown. The tadpole tail has gone.



The frog can live on land and water. Its lungs are fully developed. The frog can eat insects and worms. The froglet is now a frog. Ta-da!

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J	16	16

