



# Amphibians



Amphibians spend part of their lives in water and part on land and they are cold-blooded. The word amphibian means “two lives.” That’s a good name for animals that live first in water and on land.

Most baby amphibians are born in water and live in water. They look somewhat like a baby fish and breathe through gills like a fish. When an amphibian grows up their gills go away, that is when amphibians move to land and they breathe using their lungs.

Amphibians lay eggs that are soft so they can lay their eggs in water or wet areas. Most baby amphibians are born in water.

Amphibians sleep during the day and at night they hunt for food. They hunt for live prey. Frogs and toads eat worms and insects. Big bullfrogs will eat small turtles, snakes, mice, and birds. Frogs and toads have long, sticky tongues that they use for catching their food. Amphibians are great hunters.

Amphibians are cold-blooded so their bodies are as warm or as cold as the temperature around them. When winter comes their bodies get colder. Frogs and toads go into deep holes in the ground. Salamanders and newts also bury themselves under stones or logs. Their bodies grow cold and they cannot move. Their heart and breathing slows down. They stay this way through winter. When spring comes everything warms up and amphibians come out again.