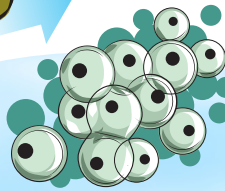
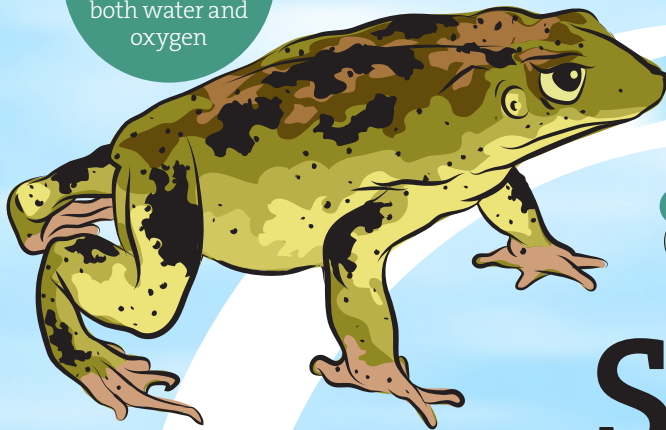


Did you know?

A frog's skin can absorb both water and oxygen

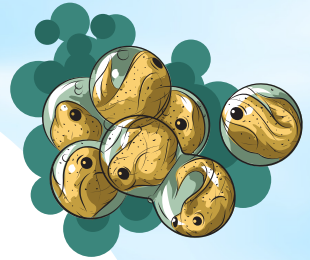
The life cycle of a frog

Follow the development of a frog as it grows from spawn to tadpole to adult



0 WEEKS

Frogs lay their eggs in single masses called spawn. They lay many eggs to further their chances of survival



1-3 WEEKS

Once the eggs are fertilised, an embryo grows inside the spawn and before long it starts to resemble a tadpole



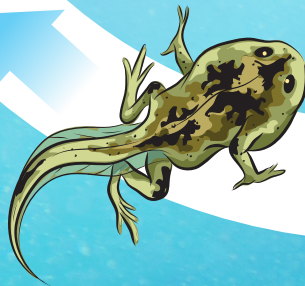
3-4 WEEKS

Shortly after hatching from the egg, the tadpole is very delicate and only has poorly developed gills, mouth and tail. It feeds on the remaining yolk. It then attaches itself to weeds or grasses in the water using sticky organs between its mouth and belly. 7 to 10 days after hatching, it is more developed and able to swim around and feed on algae

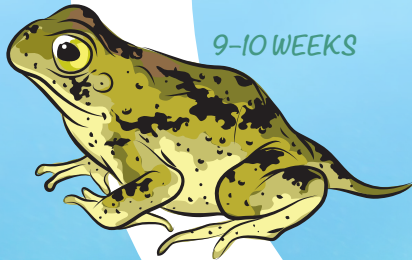


4-5 WEEKS

Skin grows over the gills until they disappear and small teeth start to grow



9-10 WEEKS



6-9 WEEKS

Small legs start to grow, the head forms and the body becomes longer. The tadpole extends its diet to include animal and plant material

12-16 WEEKS

Now the size of a small adult frog, the tadpole is at the end of its growth cycle. They leave the water, only to return to lay more eggs and start the cycle all over again

Spawn to be wild

Discover the secret world of frogs and create a mini frog haven with Pets at Home

Frogs are remarkable animals. They undertake an incredible transformation from spawn to fully grown adults in under four months. They absorb oxygen and water through their skin, and as an integral part of the food chain they clear waterways of algae, eat large quantities of insects (including pesky mosquitoes) and serve as an

important food source for other animals. Due to their absorbant skin, they're also an important 'indicator species'. This means that if the air, water, or food source in a frog's environment is polluted, their health may suffer or they may die. If there is something wrong with the frog's environment it may be something that will in turn affect humans.

Frog populations have been declining globally, with nearly one-third of the world's amphibian species threatened with extinction and up to 200 species disappearing since 1980. This tells us that environmental changes are already occurring.

To help these amazing amphibians survive, why not create your own frog haven at your meeting place?

ShAre.

Send us photos of your frog fort. Turn to page 3 for details

Activity

Make a frog fort

Create a frog haven outside your meeting place to attract amphibian visitors

Suitable for Beavers and Cubs

You will need

- A large container to hold water
- Gravel or rocks
- Small pond plants
- Optional: pond liner or silicon
- Rain water

Instructions

1 Find or buy a large container such as a half barrel, an old Belfast sink, or even a big washing-up bowl. It will need to be strong as it will be outside.

2 With your section, find a good location for the pond; frogs need somewhere that gets a good amount of light, but isn't in full sun all day.

3 Put the empty container into your chosen location. It is best to sink the container into the ground as the lower edges will help the creatures to get in and out.

4 Make the container watertight. If using an old sink, seal a plug into the plughole with silicon, or, if using a plant tray, line it with a rubber pond liner such as butyl.

5 Put a layer of clean gravel in the bottom (do not use soil as it is full of nutrients that will cause algae to form). If the container has high sides, you can use rocks or logs to create stepping stones.

6 Instruct your young people to fill their pond using rainwater where possible. Tap water can be used, but isn't ideal as it often contains too many chemicals to be good for a pond.

7 Finally, add pond plants: submerged pondweed is vital to help your pond stay clear. Include native plants around the edges, to give perches and cover for wildlife.

SAFETY FIRST

Decide if you need to fence off the pond to make it safe. Use this as a starting point to talk about pond/water safety

TIME NEEDED

60 minutes

BADGE



Pets at Home partners the Beaver Scout Animal Friends and Cub Scout Animal Carer Activity Badges.

PARTNER

pets
at home

where pets come first

OUTCOMES

Setting up a habitat for frogs will give your section the chance to study the life cycle of a frog first-hand and to see how they function and survive in their environment.

TAKING IT FURTHER

Attract other wildlife to your meeting place by making a woodpile for insects or by installing a bird feeder.

MORE INFORMATION

For more activity ideas and to download Activity Badge resources, visit scouts.org.uk/petsathome

WIN

a bird cam or bird feeder

Study wild birds at your meeting place with a bird camera or bird window box courtesy of our partner Pets at Home.

To be in with a chance of winning, simply answer this simple question: **What is both a noise that**

a bird makes and the name of a social media post?

To enter, send your answers to us at Make.Do.Share (Pets At Home Competition), Corporate Partnerships team, The Scout Association, Gilwell Park, Chingford, London E4 7QW. Include your name and

contact email address.

Alternatively, email your answer to us at makedoshare@scouts.org.uk, including 'Pets at Home Competition' in the subject line.

The final closing date for entries is 31 May 2016.

For full terms and conditions visit scouts.org.uk/petsathome.



Attract some feathered friends to your meeting place!

