

AMPHIBIANS



Amphibians:

- **have a backbone**
- **are cold-blooded**
- **have moist skin with no scales**
- **have gills for part of its life**
- **live part of their lives in water and part on land**

AMAZING AMPHIBIANS

The word "amphibian" means "living in two places." Amphibians are cool creatures that spend part of their lives in water and part on land.

All amphibians are born in the water. When they are young, they have gills to take oxygen from the water. When they grow up, most develop lungs so they can breathe air and live on land. However, some amphibians live in the water for their whole lives.

Most amphibians are carnivores with sticky tongues to grab their prey. Then they swallow it whole. One of its favorite snacks is insects.

All amphibians:

- have a backbone
- are cold-blooded
- have moist skin with no scales
- have gills for a part of its life
- live part of their lives in water and part on land

Amphibians are different from reptiles because they do not have any scales. Instead, they have smooth, slimy skin. An amphibian's skin is incredibly moist. This allows it to breathe through its skin.

Amphibians go through a complete transformation to become an adult. This process is called metamorphosis. This process is not the same for all amphibians but most species go through some sort of metamorphosis. All amphibians start life as an egg. Eggs hatch into small fish-like looking creatures with gills and long tails. Over the next few months, they grow legs and develop lungs. Unlike salamanders, frogs lose their tails.

There are three types of amphibians:

1. Frogs and toads
2. Salamanders and newts
3. Caecilians

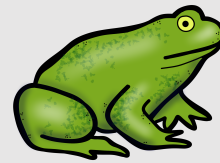


EXAMPLES:

Let's look at each group more closely:

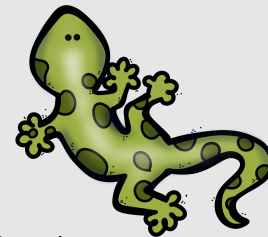
Frogs and toads:

How can you tell the difference between a frog and a toad? Frogs and toads look alike. The main difference is that toads have bumpy skin whereas a frog's skin is smooth. Frogs also have long muscular legs that give it the power to jump high into the air. Both frogs and toads are excellent swimmers.



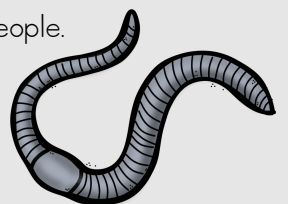
Salamanders and newts:

Salamanders and newts look like lizards but have smooth, slimy skin. Most live in a cool, moist forest habitat. Newts live on land but return to the water to lay their eggs. Some salamanders stay in the water for their whole lives.



Caecilians:

Caecilians look like giant worms. Because they live in the water or underground, they are rarely seen by people.



Name: _____

AMAZING AMPHIBIANS

What does the word "amphibian" mean?

How do amphibians breathe in the water?

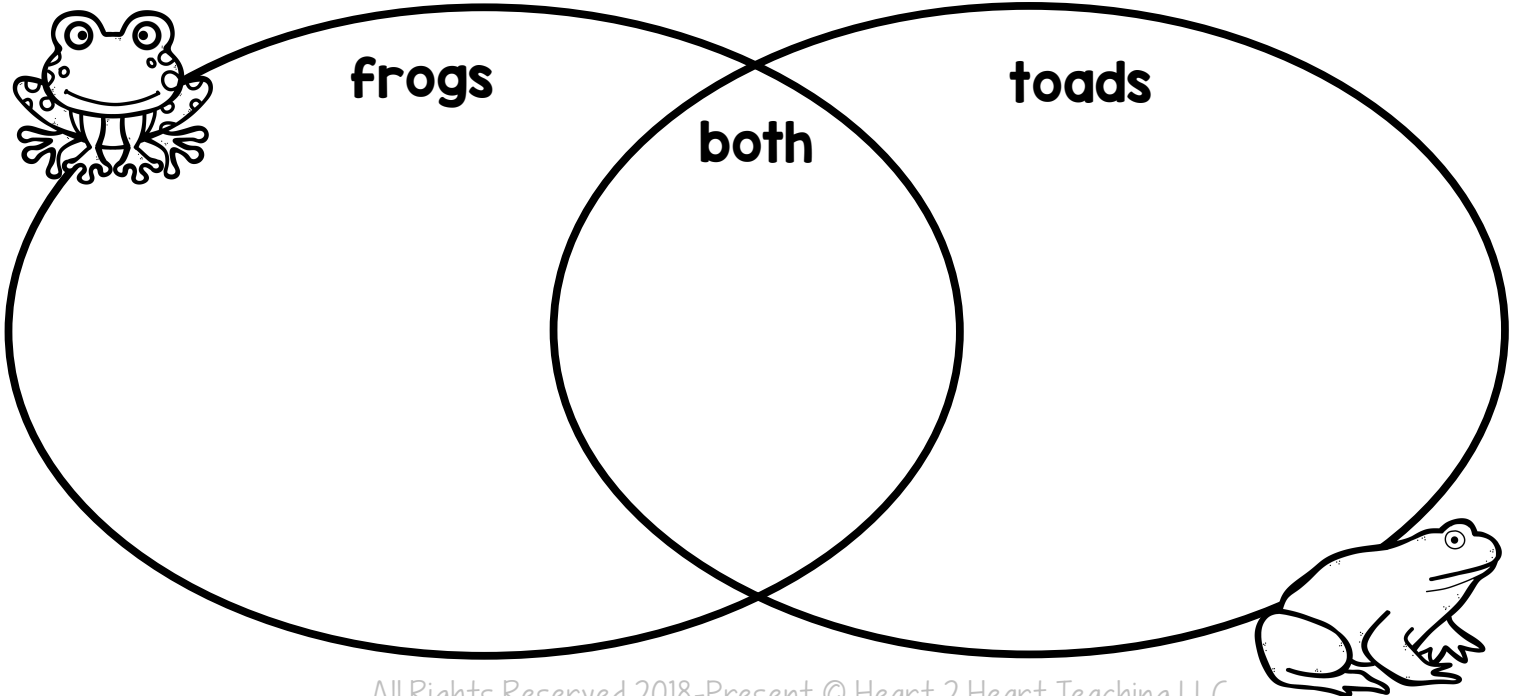
Name the five characteristics of all amphibians:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Tell one fact about salamanders:



Compare and contrast frogs to toads using the Venn diagram below.



AMPHIBIANS

Circle all the amphibians:

newts snakes
lizard toads
caecilians turtle
salamander insects
dog penguin
elephant frogs

Tell one interesting fact
you learned about them:

What do amphibians eat?

Name of your favorite amphibian:

What is metamorphosis?



Name five
characteristics of
all amphibians:



1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

How are amphibians uniquely
different from every other animal?

AMPHIBIANS



Decide if each statement below is true or false:

1. Amphibians start life as an egg.

2. Amphibians do not have a backbone.

3. Amphibians spend part of their lives in water and part on land.

4. Amphibians have moist smooth skin with no scales.

5. Many have sticky tongues to catch their prey.

6. Most go through a transformation called metamorphosis.

Compare and contrast reptiles to amphibians using the Venn Diagram.

