

Frogs and Toads

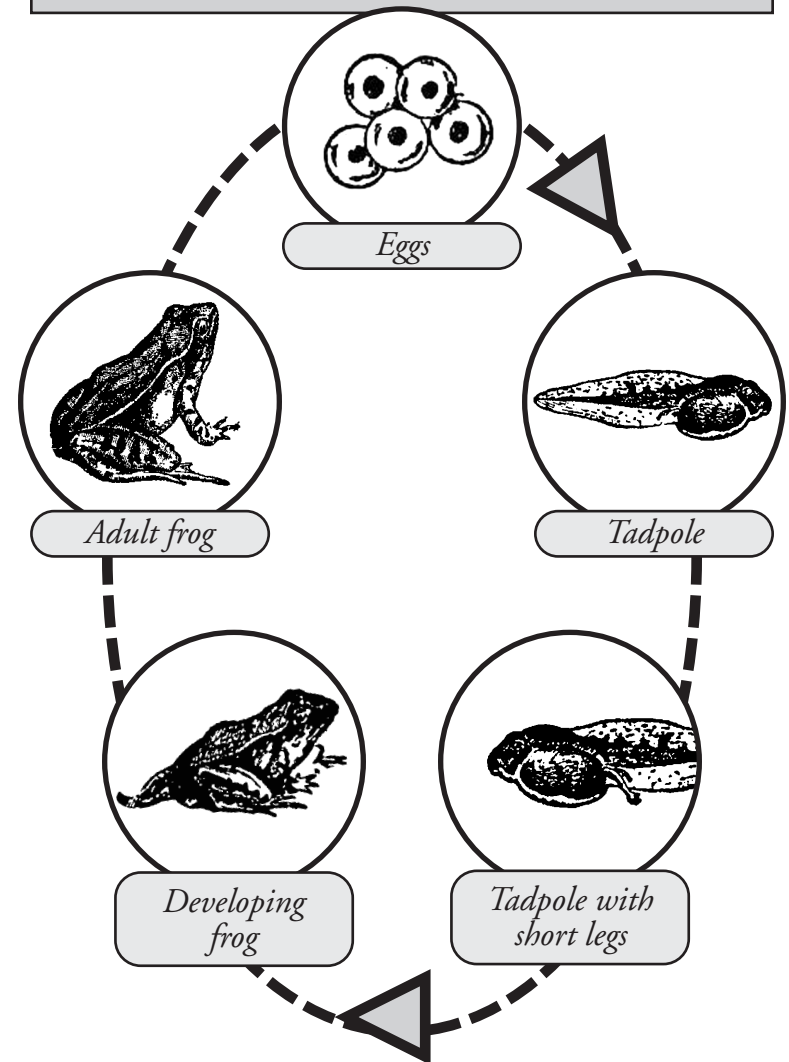
Frog and toad eggs do not hatch into tiny frogs or toads. Instead, they hatch into tadpoles. Frogs and toads undergo metamorphosis as the tadpoles change into adults.

You might have seen tadpoles in a pond or stream. Tadpoles breathe through **gills** and have no legs. They look more like fish than frogs or toads.

Look at the diagram on the next page. You can see how a tadpole develops into a frog. As it grows legs, its tail begins to disappear. It also develops lungs so it can breathe air and live on land. Then the female lays eggs, and the male fertilizes the eggs. The cycle begins again.

gills: slits behind the eyes of fish and tadpoles; water moves in and out through these slits and the animal removes oxygen from the water

Life Cycle of a Frog



*–Hypothesize–
How do you think scientists learned
about the life cycle of a frog?*