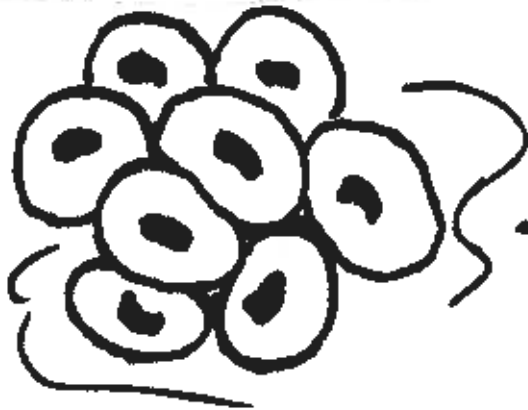


All living things go through a life cycle. While many species simply appear as smaller versions of the adult, some go through very big changes in both body structure and behavior. This process is known as Metamorphosis. Let's look at these amazing changes in the life cycle of a frog.

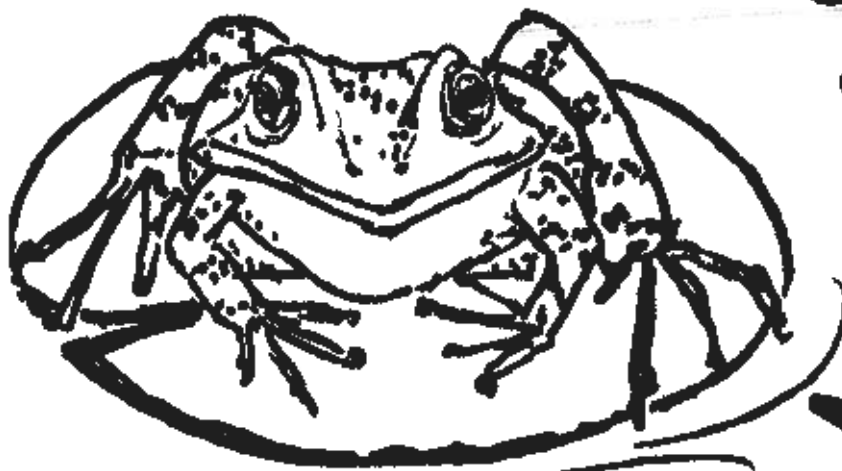
The frog begins life as an egg. Unlike bird eggs, these eggs mature in gooey clusters in a pond. Usually, within 1-3 weeks, the tadpole hatches.



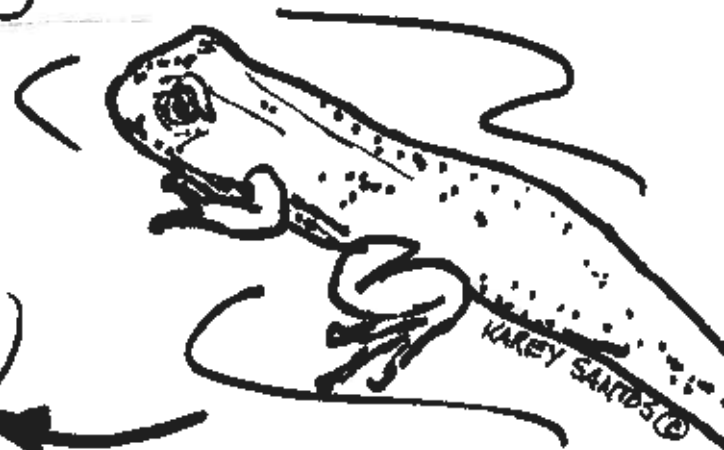
A newly hatched tadpole is a round, fish-like creature that eats nearly non-stop so it can grow and change. Like fish, they breathe with gills, but they do not have fishy fins. They move about by wiggling their tail to push them about.



Big
Changes



As the tadpole matures, it moves from underwater to land. As an adult, it will return to the water to reproduce and the cycle will begin again.



As the tadpole grows, its body begins to change, both inside and out. Skin grows over its gill slits as lung develop and legs begin to sprout from the body.