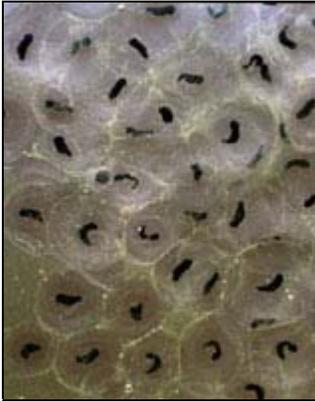


The Life Cycle of a Frog

The life cycle of a frog is amazing. Read below to learn more. (Note: Although many frogs have this life cycle, others do not. Some frogs don't even have **tadpoles**¹; instead their eggs hatch directly into frogs!)



Adam Hart-Davis/DHD
Multimedia Gallery

Frogs begin life as tiny eggs.



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

A full-grown adult frog.

1. A frog begins life as a tiny egg, usually in or near water.
2. After about 10 days, a tadpole hatches from the egg. It breathes using gills and moves like a fish.
3. After about five weeks, the tadpole's gills disappear, and it grows lungs.
4. At about 12 weeks, the young frog grows legs, and its tail disappears. It leaves the water and can live on land.
5. In about one year, the frog is a full-grown adult. Soon, the cycle will begin again.

¹ **tadpoles**: the larva of a frog or toad that has a rounded body and a long tail, breathes with gills, and lives in water