

★★★ IT'S ALL ANIMALS!

ANIMALS THAT

CHANGE FORMS

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Chapter 1: **Born in Water**



The babies can be seen as they grow inside these frog eggs.

What kind of animals need water to lay their eggs? **Amphibians** (am•FIH•bee•unz) do! Water is important for most amphibians for their whole lives.

They need to stay close to fresh water or damp places. Water helps amphibians keep their skin moist. If they are away from water

for a long time, they will dry up and die.

This is a **trait** that nearly all amphibians share. Traits tell us how an animal looks, acts, and lives.

Amphibian females lay their eggs in water. So most amphibian babies are born in water. They start life looking like fish. They even have **gills** to breathe, like fish. The babies of nearly all frogs and toads start out like this.

These babies don't live in water forever, though. As they grow, their bodies change. Most amphibians lose their gills and grow lungs. Most of them also start to grow legs. Some, but not all, lose their tails.

These changes prepare them to move to land. In Greek, *amphibian* means "living a double life." They have one form as babies. They have another form as adults.

Who are these animals? There are three main groups of amphibians.

Frogs and toads are one group. Salamanders (SAL•uh•man•derz) are another. The third group is the **caecilians** (seh•SILL•yens). Caecilians have no legs. In fact, they look like worms. But they have some important