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INTRODUCTION

ANIMALS are living things that can move about and must eat food to survive. This food may be plants, other animals, or both. Animals are divided into two groups: vertebrates (with backbones) and invertebrates (without backbones). Vertebrates include fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals. Insects, spiders, worms and molluscs are invertebrates.

FROGS

FROGS, toads, newts and salamanders are all amphibians. They start their lives underwater. When they grow up, they live on land. They return to the water to lay their eggs.

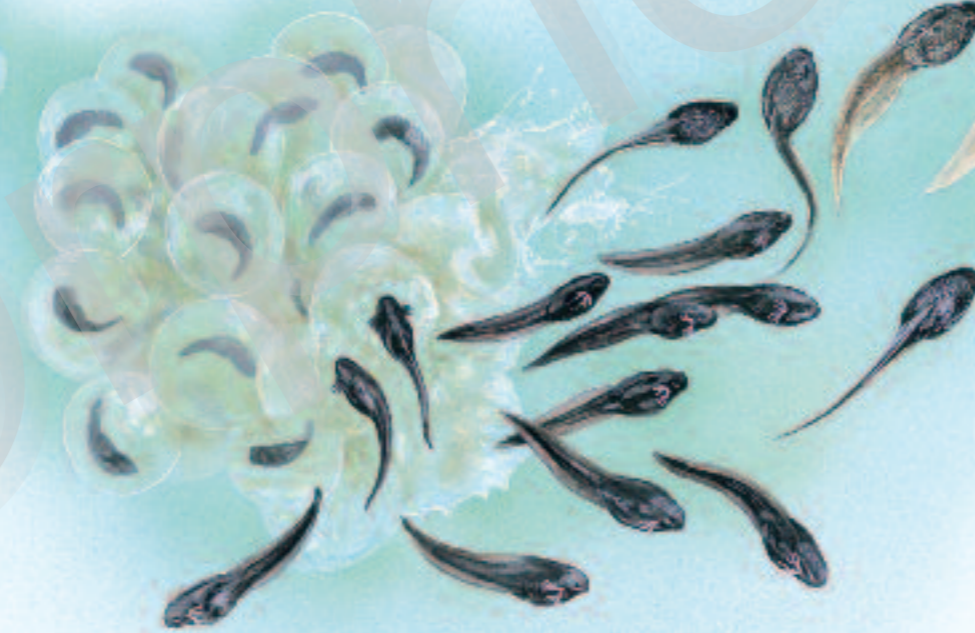
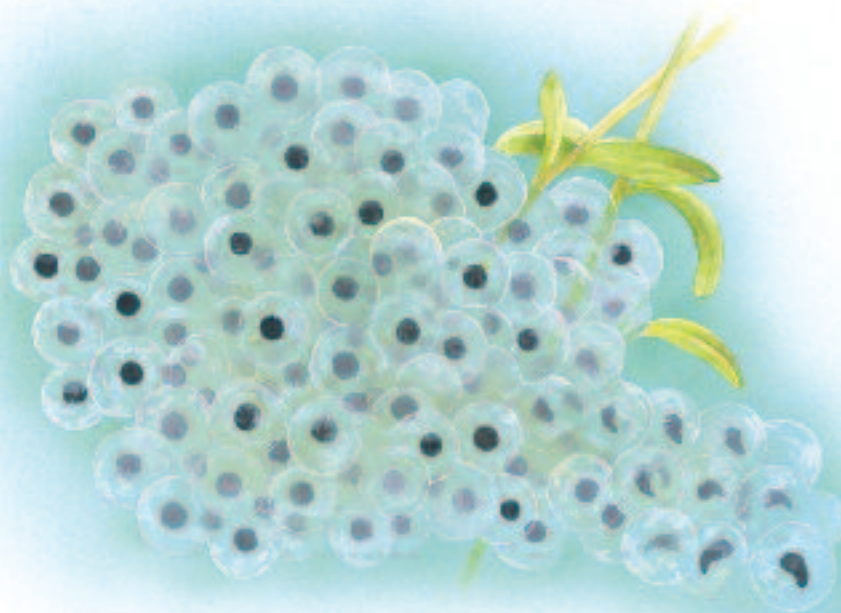


MOIST SKINS

Like most amphibians, frogs are cold-blooded, four-limbed animals. They have very small lungs, and they can “breathe in” air through their skins. They need to keep their skins moist in order to do this, so adults usually live not far from water.

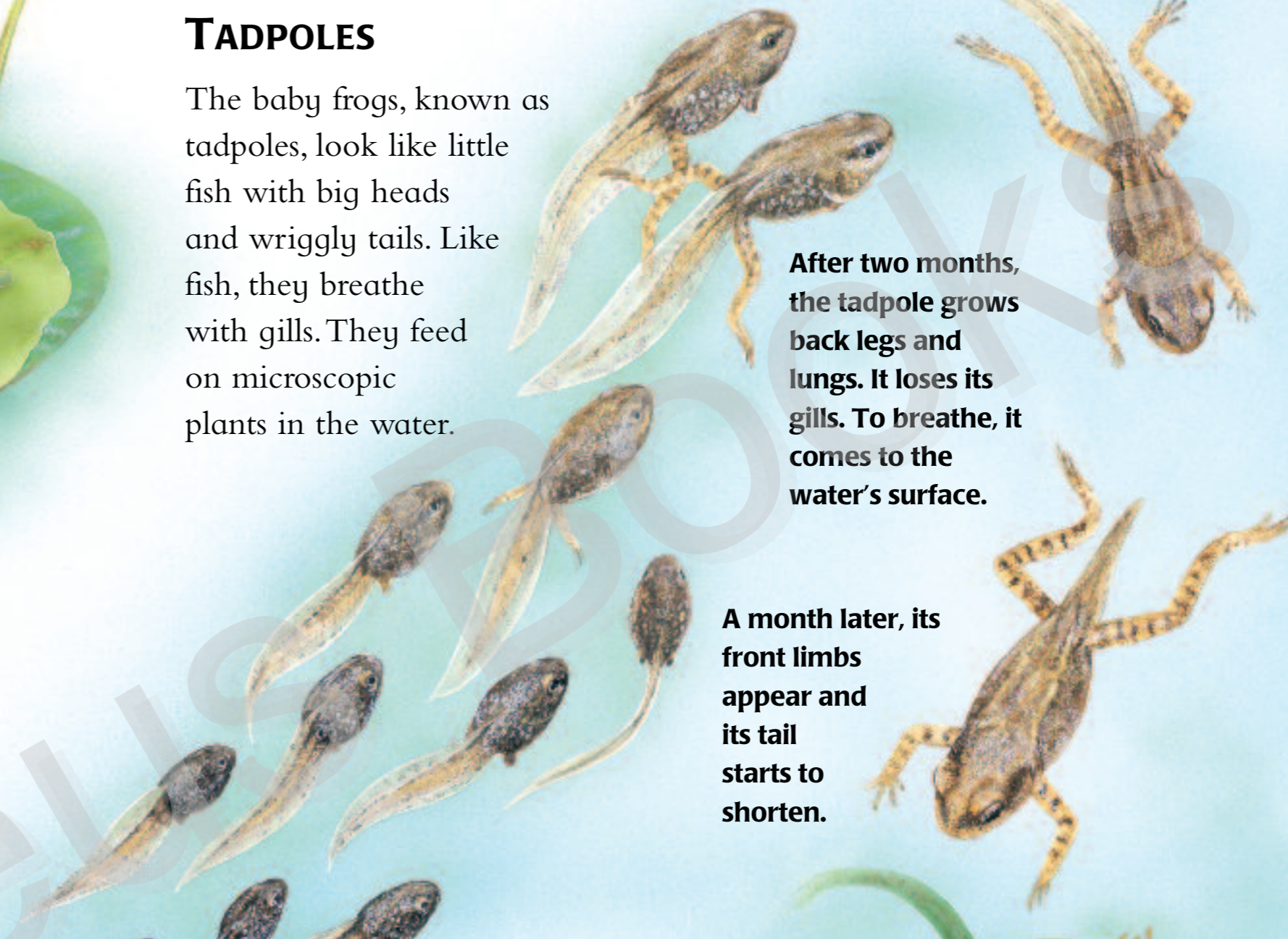
FROG SPAWN

Frogs lay their eggs in ponds or streams. The eggs, or spawn, look like a clump of jelly. The black “dots” are the embryos. The babies that hatch out look very different from their parents.



TADPOLES

The baby frogs, known as tadpoles, look like little fish with big heads and wriggly tails. Like fish, they breathe with gills. They feed on microscopic plants in the water.



After two months, the tadpole grows back legs and lungs. It loses its gills. To breathe, it comes to the water's surface.

A month later, its front limbs appear and its tail starts to shorten.

YOUNG ADULT

Four months after hatching, the young frog's eyes have grown bigger and its mouth is much wider. Instead of plants, it feeds on tiny creatures. About 1 cm long, the frog has lost its tail and is now ready for its adult life on land. It will be ready to breed itself when four years old.

