

Discovery Swap Animals

Dragonflies live most of their lives underwater as **nymphs**. While nymphs, they breathe with gills. Their brown color helps them blend in but they also burrow under mud to hide. They mostly eat other aquatic insects, but if they are large enough, they will eat small fish and tadpoles! After several years of life underwater, they crawl out, perch on a plant or rock, and shed their skin. As adults they will use their new wings to hunt by air!



Dragonfly nymph



Adult dragonfly emerging



Bullfrog tadpoles



Adult Bullfrog

Bullfrog tadpoles spend 1-2 years in the pond. They breathe with gills and use their tails to swim through the water. During the day they often hide in the pond mud. After hatching from eggs, they feed on algae when they are small. When they grow larger, they eat frog eggs and small insects too. Tadpoles develop lungs as they grow and must come to the surface to get air. They are preparing to be an adult bullfrog someday. Adult bullfrogs eat *anything* they can fit into their huge mouths!

Eastern newts are salamanders with an interesting life cycle. Newts hatch from eggs in the pond then change into bright orange juveniles. These juveniles develop lungs, leave the pond and live in the woods for several years feeding and growing.



Eastern Newt Juvenile

As adults, they return to the pond. Their tail flattens and they change to a dull green color with red spots. This helps them blend into the pond. Since they have lungs, they must surface for air. Their tail helps them swim through the water. They eat insects, leeches, snails, small frogs and fish. To stop other animals from eating them, they cover their skin with a bad-tasting slime. Like bullfrogs, newts are one of the top predators in the pond!



Eastern Newt Adult