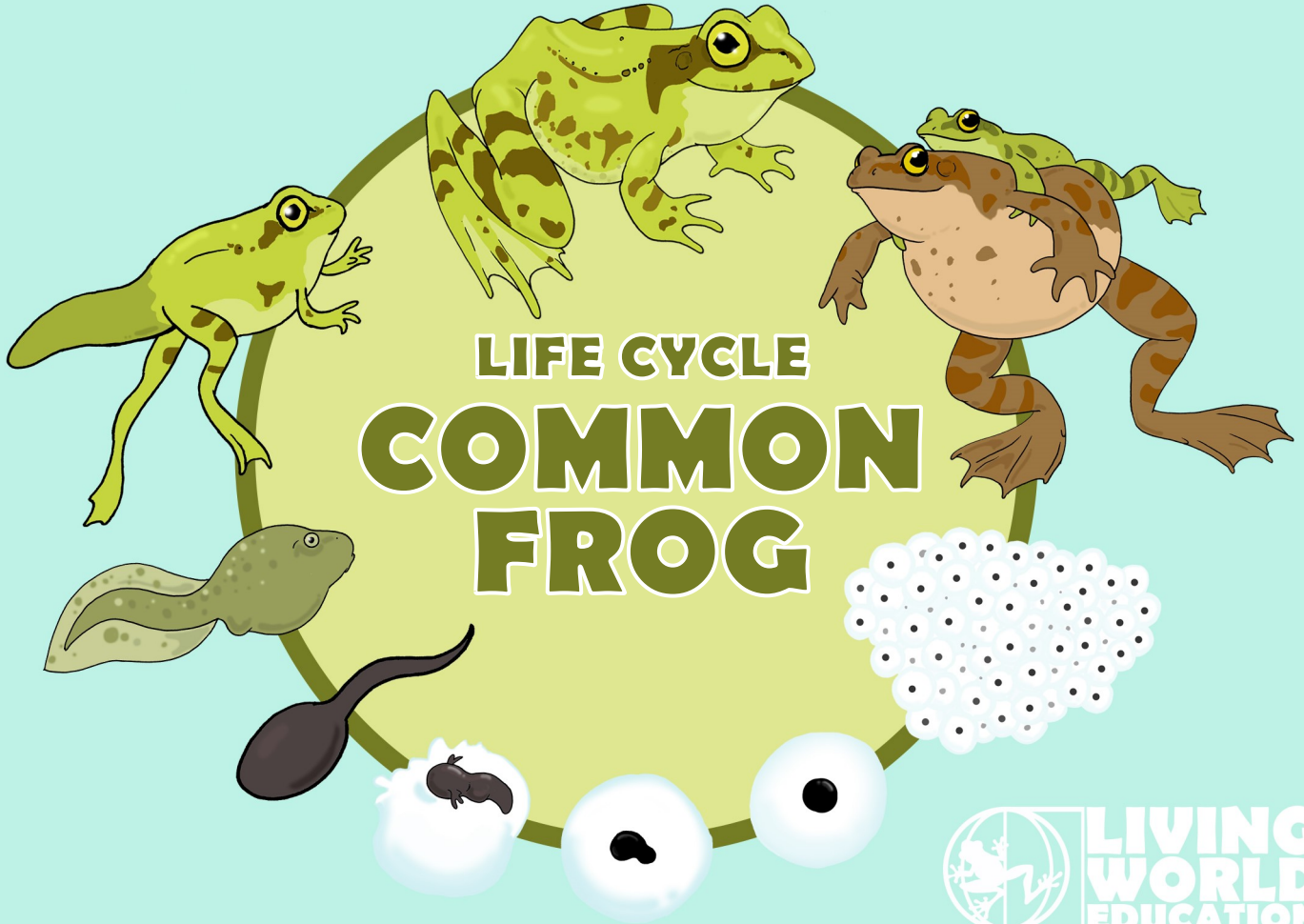
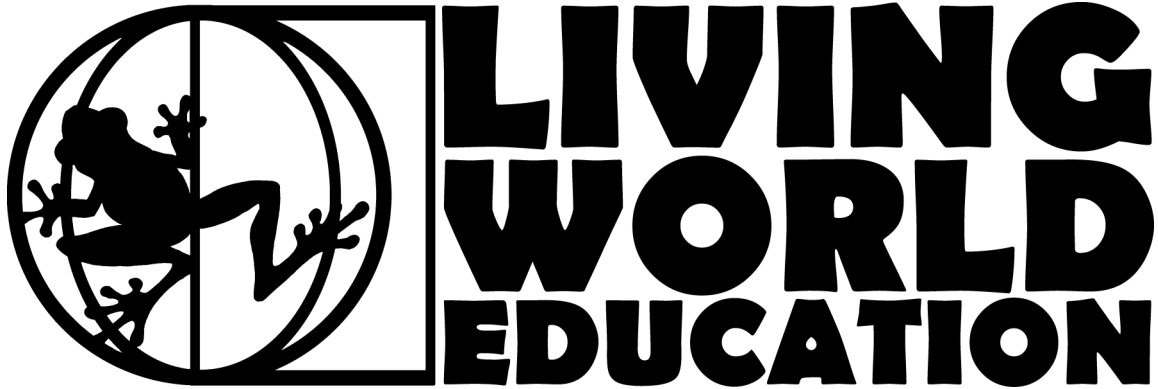


LIFE CYCLE COMMON FROG





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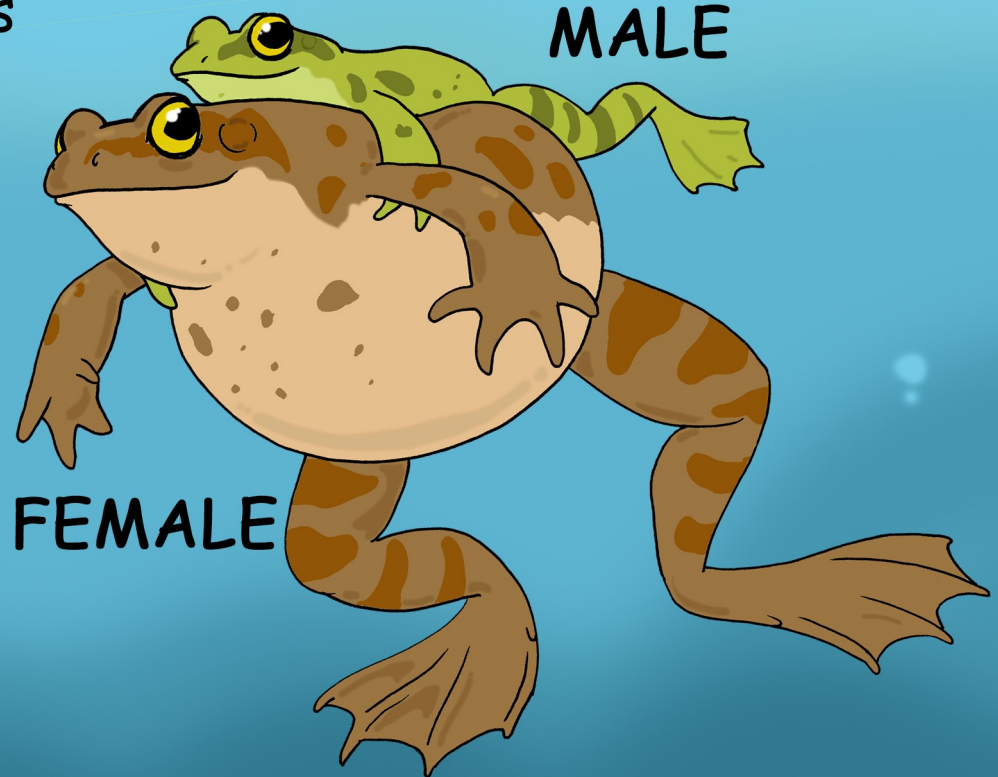
written and illustrated by Colin Marshall
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Frogs are **amphibians**. Their life cycle begins in water because they lay eggs without shells. On land, the jelly-like spawn would dry out. All amphibians have a stage of transformation from larvae to adults called **metamorphosis**.

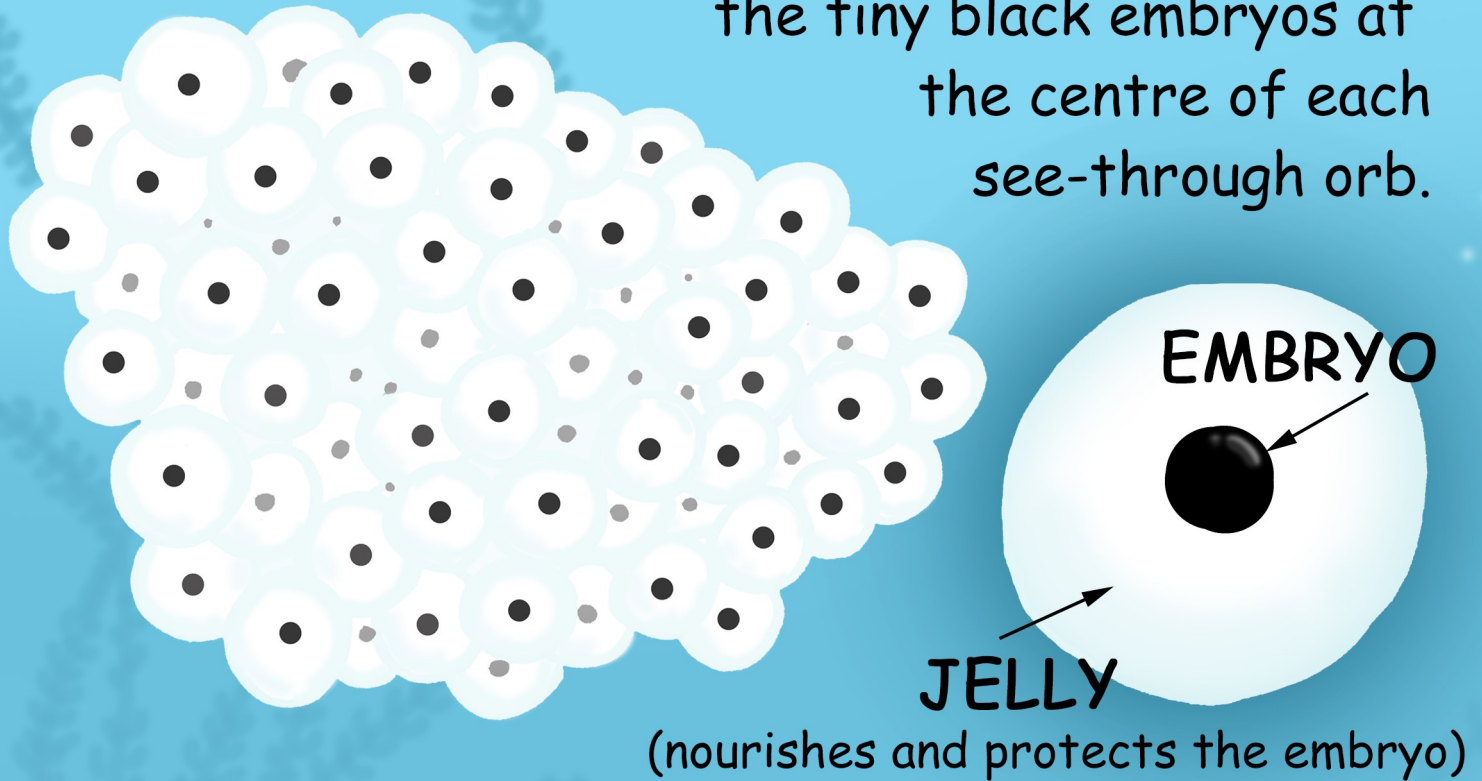


Adult frogs couple up with the male attracting a mate with a **croaking** call.

The male gives the female a squeeze and she releases her eggs.



The large cluster of eggs is called **frog spawn**.
As the jelly is transparent, it is possible to see
the tiny black embryos at
the centre of each
see-through orb.



As the embryo develops, it is easy to see the forming of a **head** and a **tail**.

The tadpole soon emerges, and continues to eat the jelly.



Oxygen from the water is absorbed by delicate, feathery **gills** (like a fish) which can be seen on either side of the body.

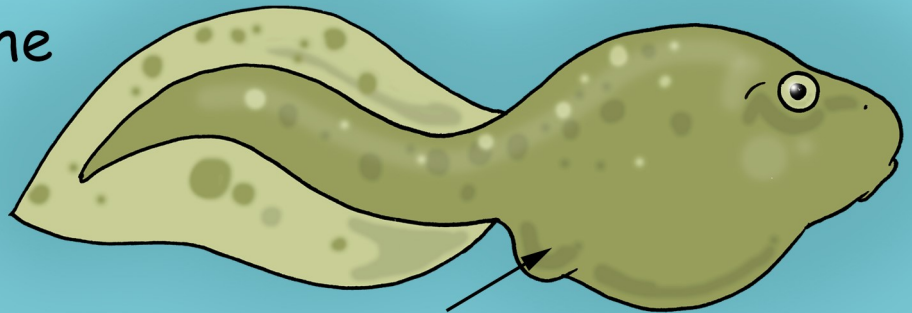


After a short while, the tadpoles become more defined with a glossy, dark body. It uses a **wiggly tail** to swim as it feeds on tiny creatures and plants called **algae**.



Now the tadpole has speckled skin, well developed eyes and a sucker mouth.

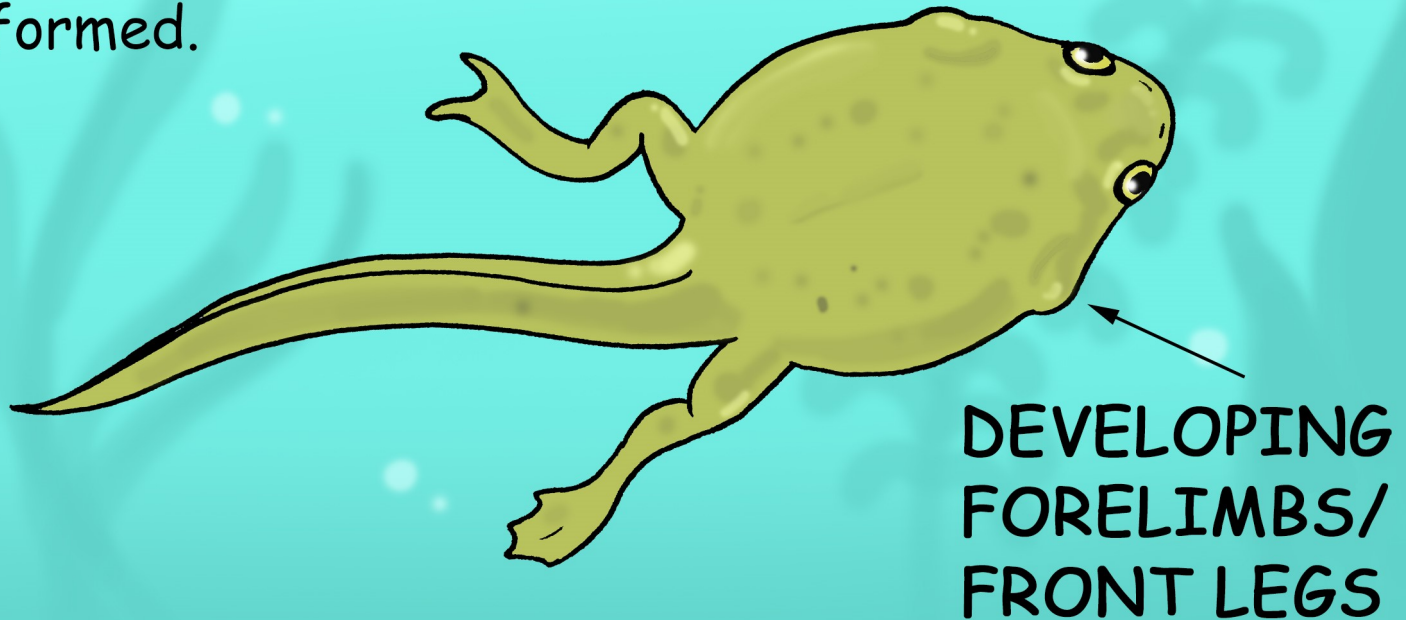
Bumps appear by the tail, indicating where legs will soon appear.



SIGNS OF HIND LEG GROWTH

Shortly after the development of back legs, it is possible to see bumps where forelimbs will soon emerge.

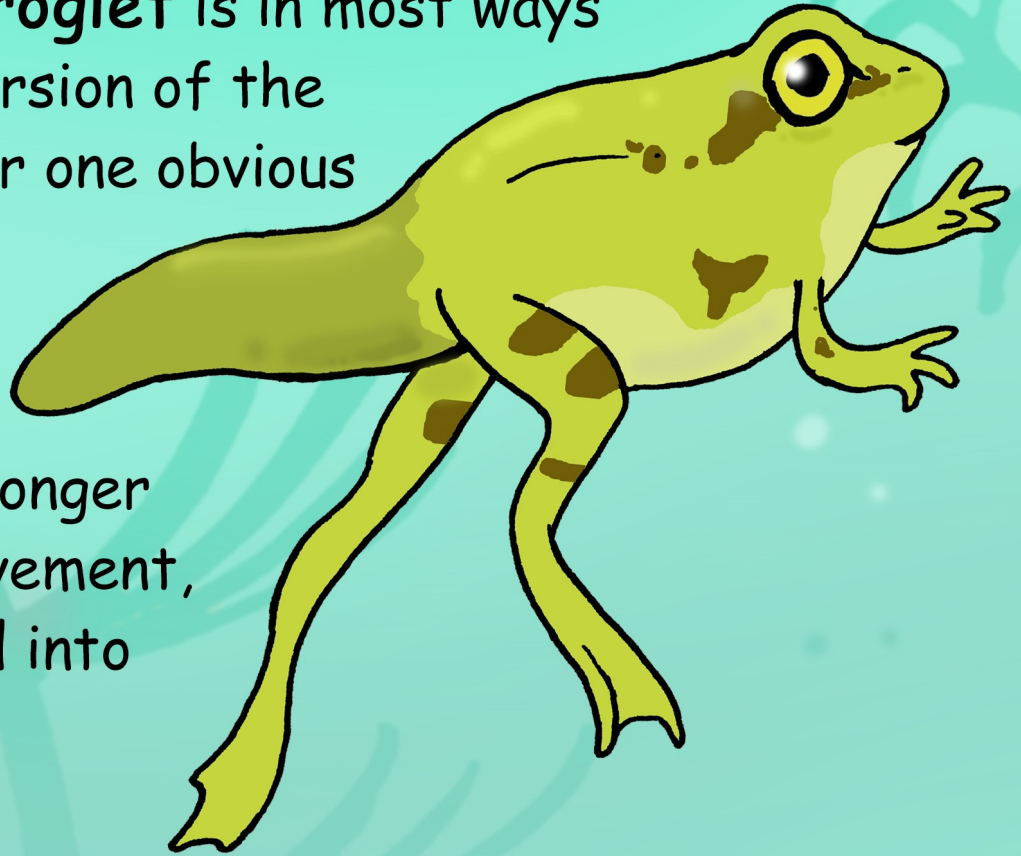
The head is starting to become more clearly formed.



**DEVELOPING
FORELIMBS/
FRONT LEGS**

The young **froglet** is in most ways like a tiny version of the adult, but for one obvious difference.

The tail, no longer used for movement, is **absorbed** into the body.



Metamorphosis takes a tiny, aquatic tadpole on a remarkable journey. It has developed a **skeleton**, **legs** and a totally different way of breathing!

