

OXBOW AT HOME

Amazing Amphibians

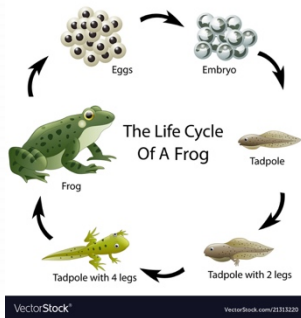
Wildlife Wednesday Reflection Questions

Premiered as Facebook Live Event on Wednesday, April 1st at Noon (EST)

Question 1:

What is metamorphosis? Draw the life cycle of a frog (and compare it to your pre-visit drawing).

Metamorphosis is the transformation of physical appearance from two stages or more from an immature form to an adult form.



Question 2:

What do most adult amphibians eat? What type of “eater” does that make them?

Most adult amphibians eat primarily meat and are therefore carnivores.

Question 3:

Can you define what it means for amphibians to have permeable skin?

Permeable skin means that their skin absorbs water or other substances from their environment (through osmosis), sort of like a sponge. Pour ½ cup of water on a sponge to see what happens – the water disappears, or is absorbed by the sponge and is permeable. The skin of an amphibian lets certain things through (like water) but not others (like dirt), similar to how a coffee filter lets water flow through it but does not allow the coffee grounds to pass through it.

Question 4:

How could water pollution affect an amphibian?

Refer back to the sponge demonstration or explanation. Water can easily pass through an amphibian’s skin, so things like heavy metal or chemical pollution can be absorbed into their bodies, causing them to become ill.

Question 5:

Amphibians are considered “bioindicator species,” which means they can “tell” scientists if their habitat is healthy or polluted. What does the word indicator mean? Use context clues to help you. Can you think of any examples of an indicator in your everyday life?

An indicator is a gauge, meter, or factor to measure something. For example, your microwave beeps when your food is heated or the time has expired and the gas indicator light turns on when it is time to refuel.