

Amphibians

Amphibians were the first land animals and evolved hundreds of millions of years ago from fish. Amphibians include animals such as frogs, toads, and salamanders. Many of their characteristics show that they are still reliant on water for at least part of their lives.

- Amphibians are egg-laying animals. Unlike reptiles and birds, amphibians, like frogs, have to lay eggs in water or in moist places because their eggs dry out easily.
- Amphibian skin is usually smooth and slimy, without scales, feathers, and hair.
- Amphibians also breathe partly through their skin, so it has to remain moist to aid in breathing.
- Amphibians have a complex life cycle. They give birth to young that do not resemble their parents (unlike reptiles who are tiny replicas of their parents). Young have to go through the process of metamorphosis before becoming adult.
- Amphibians have three-chambered hearts, unlike some reptiles and birds that have four-chambered hearts.
- Amphibians are cold-blooded animals like reptiles and insects.
- Amphibians often vocalize, for example the 'chorus' of frogs. This sets them apart from reptiles, whose sound is very restricted.

A number of other characteristics can be found in amphibians, but they are found in other animal groups also.

Amphibians are vertebrates, meaning they have a backbone. Reptiles, mammals, and birds have backbones, but they don't share other amphibian characteristics.

There are three main groups of amphibians, and of these, two are found in Blue Sky. They are the salamanders and the frogs and toads. The third group, the caecilians are limbless amphibians that live only in tropical forests.