

# Primary Worksheets: Newt

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Newts are amphibians like frogs! Amphibians are animals that are cold-blooded, have a backbone and wet skin. Newts have legs for walking, but like fish, they have tails for swimming! They are small animals that can grow up to five inches long (same size as your hand!) and can live on both land and in the water.

Newts begin their lives in ponds or lakes. As they grow older, they leave the water to live in woodlands or forests. One of their favourite areas is a bog, which is a wet, spongy area of land. They enjoy wet environments for their soft and moist skin.

Interestingly, newts hibernate during the cold winter months by either going under the ground or in mud at the bottom of their pond. Sometimes they will hide under logs and rocks.



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Newts are carnivores. They eat slugs, worms, small fish and insects. Newts hunt by sight, so their prey must be moving for them to see it in order to attack.

To try and scare away predators, newts have secret toxins in their skin that they release if needed. They also use bright underbelly colours to scare off their predators.

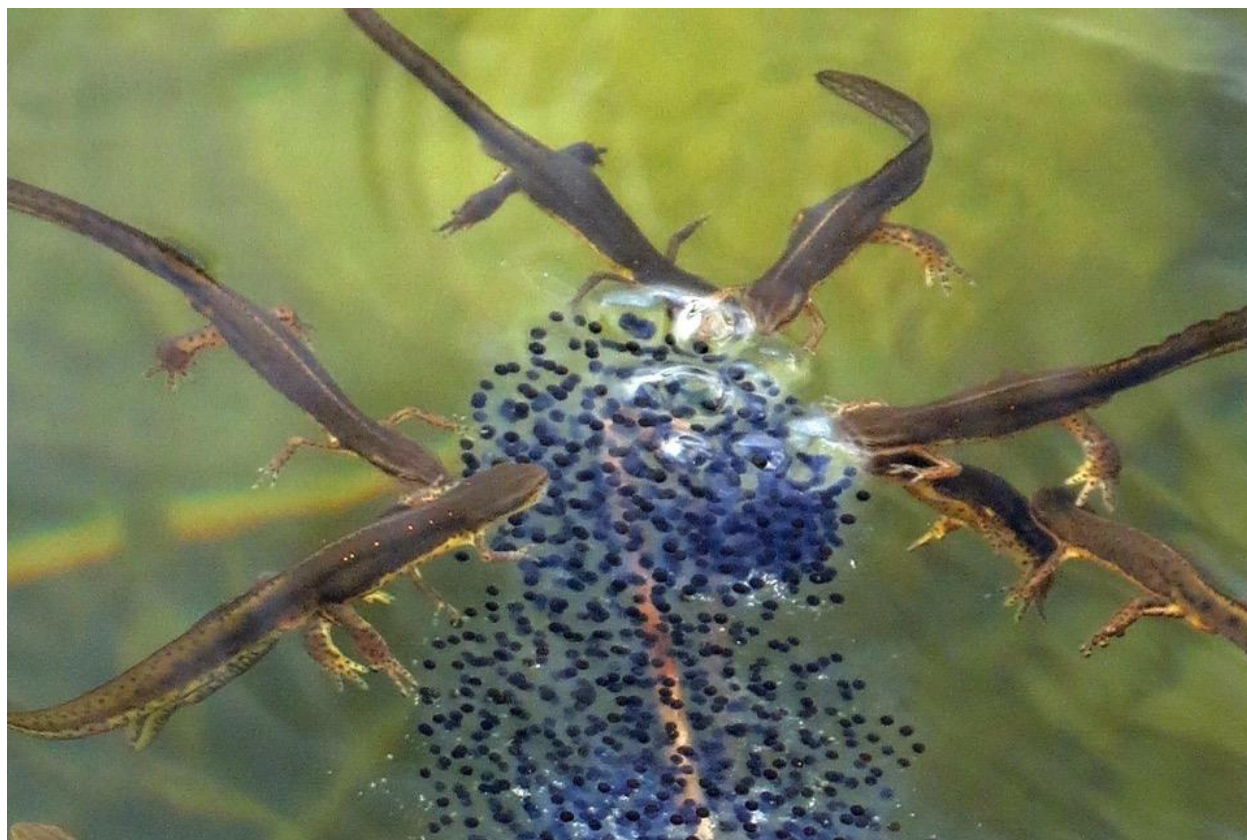
Most newts lay eggs, and one female can lay hundreds of eggs! They like to lay their eggs one at a time, attaching them to aquatic plants, unlike frogs who lay all their eggs in one big clump. The female sniffs the leaf to make sure it is the right one. Only a few newt species lay their eggs on the land.





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Newts like to breed in late winter, early spring. Females are attracted by the male's spots. A male will make fanning motions to make friends with the female. If they like each other, the male will rub his head on her snout. Males will fight with each other to try and become friends with a female.

Just like frogs, newt babies are called tadpoles! The difference in the growth is that newts grow their front legs first, the opposite of frogs who grow their back legs first. When the newts come out of the water, they can travel up to 1km to look for food such as worms and beetles!

The newts will grow inside the eggs for 3 to 8 weeks depending on the water temperature. Once they hatch, they will lose their gills and develop lungs that are for breathing on the land.



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**Answer the questions.**

What is a newt?

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What do they look like?

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Where do they like to live?

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**Answer the questions.**

What do they eat?

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What is similar between a newt and a frog?

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What is different between a newt and a frog?

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