

A young boy with short brown hair, wearing a white t-shirt and blue patterned shorts, is smiling and holding a small, dark green frog in his open palm. He is standing in a shallow stream with rocks and green plants. In the background, other people are visible, some wading in the water. The text "Classification of Amphibians" is overlaid on the right side of the image in a white, italicized font.

Classification of Amphibians

Studyladder

The name 'amphibian' comes from the Greek word

'amphibios'.

Meaning:

Having a double life;

Living on land and in water.



AMPHIBIANS

- Live on land and in water for some part of their life cycle.
- Are ectothermic (cold-blooded)
- Lay eggs.
- Have webbed feet.
- Have moist skin.

FROGS & TOADS



NEWTS & SALAMANDERS



CAECILIANS



Frogs and Toads

Frogs are native to all continents except Antarctica. They have smooth, moist skin and big, bulging eyes! Some frogs have poisonous skin with brightly coloured markings to warn off predators.

Toads have dry bumpy skin, crests behind their eyes. They have parotoid glands which produce toxic secretions to help it defend itself against predators.

Toads are native to all continents except Antarctica and Australia.





Salamanders and newts live in all continents except Antarctica and Australia. They begin their life cycle in the water as eggs which, like frogs, develop into tadpoles. They then develop lungs and legs before moving to land. Some salamanders retain their gills and spend much of their time in the water. They have smooth skin and a long tail, often resembling lizards. Most have short legs and some have webbed feet which help them swim.

The axolotl (see picture above) is an example of a salamander that spends its life in the water. It has developed external gills for breathing, allowing it to live permanently in the water instead of moving onto land.

A newt is a salamander that spends most of its adult life out of the water. Newts have the ability to regenerate body parts and many newts have skin that produces a toxic substance for protection against predators.

Caecilians

Caecilians resemble snakes or worms because they have long legless bodies. Some caecilians are able to swim in the water like an eel.

There are nearly 200 species of caecilians. They range in colour and size. Some are eyeless while others have eyes covered by a layer of skin.

Caecilians have many teeth and feed on soil dwelling creatures such as worms and termites. Prey is swallowed whole.

Their adaptations include a protective skin over their eye, a hard skull and a slender muscular body for burrowing underground. Some species have skin that secretes a toxic substance, protecting them against predators.

Caecilians live in the wet, tropical regions of Asia, Africa and South America. They are not often seen because they spend most of their time burrowing underground and under leaf litter.

