

CHILDREN'S GUIDE TO TADPOLES



THE FROG

Frogs are amphibians, which mean that they can live in water or on land. They go through several stages of life before they become adult frogs and during those stages, they live only in water.



A frog

STAGE 1 – THE EGG



Frog eggs or spawn are laid in water

A frog begins life as a fertilized *egg*. A female frog lays a lot of eggs at one time in a pond. The eggs float on water in a jelly mass or cluster. The eggs will soon hatch into tadpoles!

STAGE 2 – TADPOLES

Tadpoles go through a process called ***metamorphosis***. Metamorphosis is a big word that means changing from one form into another. These animals look very different as babies than their parents do.



When the tadpole hatches, it looks more like a fish than a frog. It doesn't have any legs! It has *gills* that allow it to breathe underwater. The tadpole swims, eats plants and algae from the water, and grows for several weeks.

During this time, the tadpole starts to develop lungs so it will be able to breathe out of the water when it becomes a frog.

The tadpole also starts to grow two hind legs. Now it can leap around instead of only swimming. Although the tadpole is starting to look a little more like a frog, it still has a very long tail!





The tadpole grows two front legs and its long tail becomes shorter and shorter. The tadpole uses the nutrients stored in its tail as food, so until its tail is completely gone, it doesn't need anything else to eat! Then just a little stub of its tail is left, and the tadpole is becomes a young frog

STAGE 3 - FROGLET



The frog is about 2-4 months old; it still has a tail but can now breathe air through its lungs.

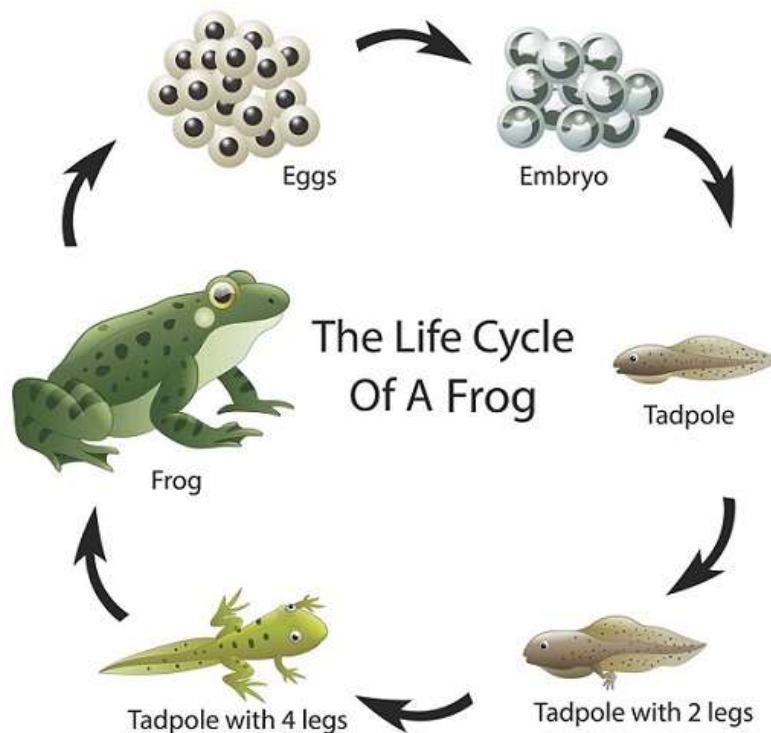
It hops right out of the water and onto dry land for the first time! The frog is still very small.

STAGE 4 – ADULT FROG

The frog's tail will eventually disappear completely and it will start to eat insects instead of plants from the water. The young frog will grow for about 2-4 years to become an adult. The adult frogs then lay their eggs and more tadpoles hatch and begin the cycle again.

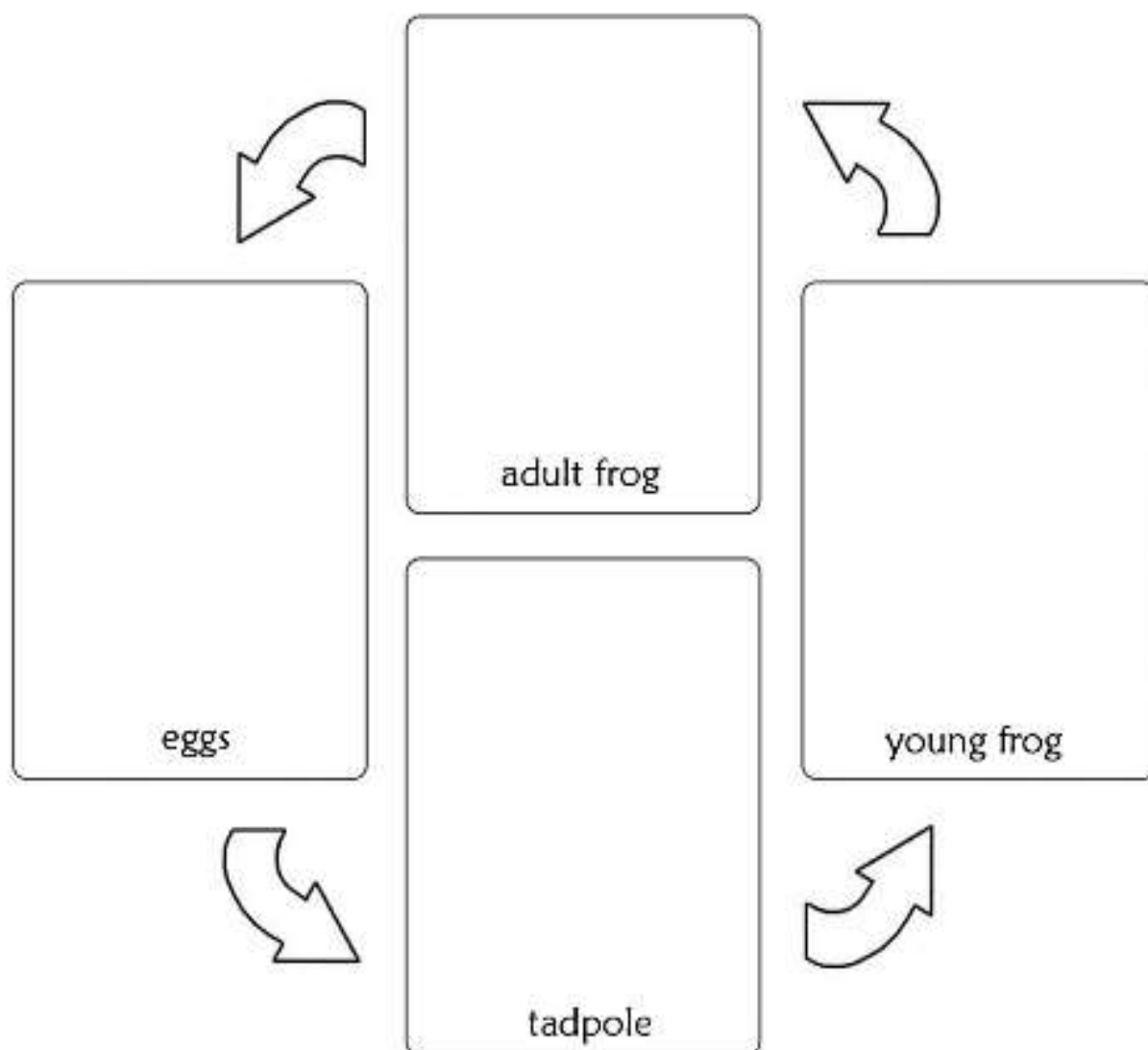
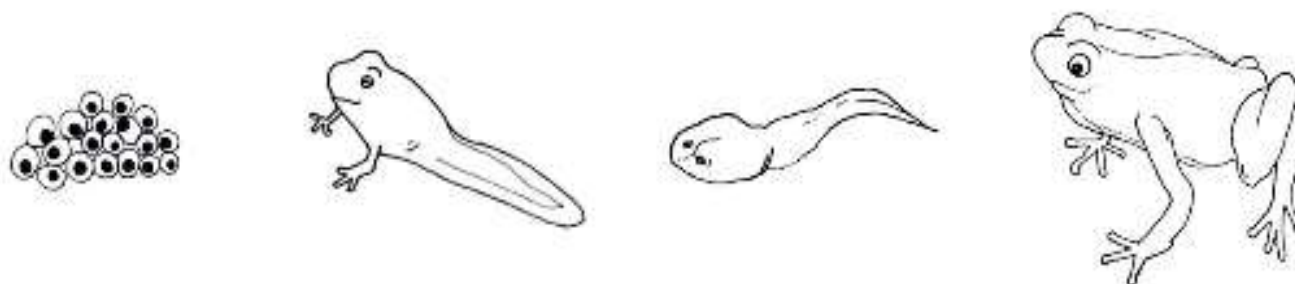


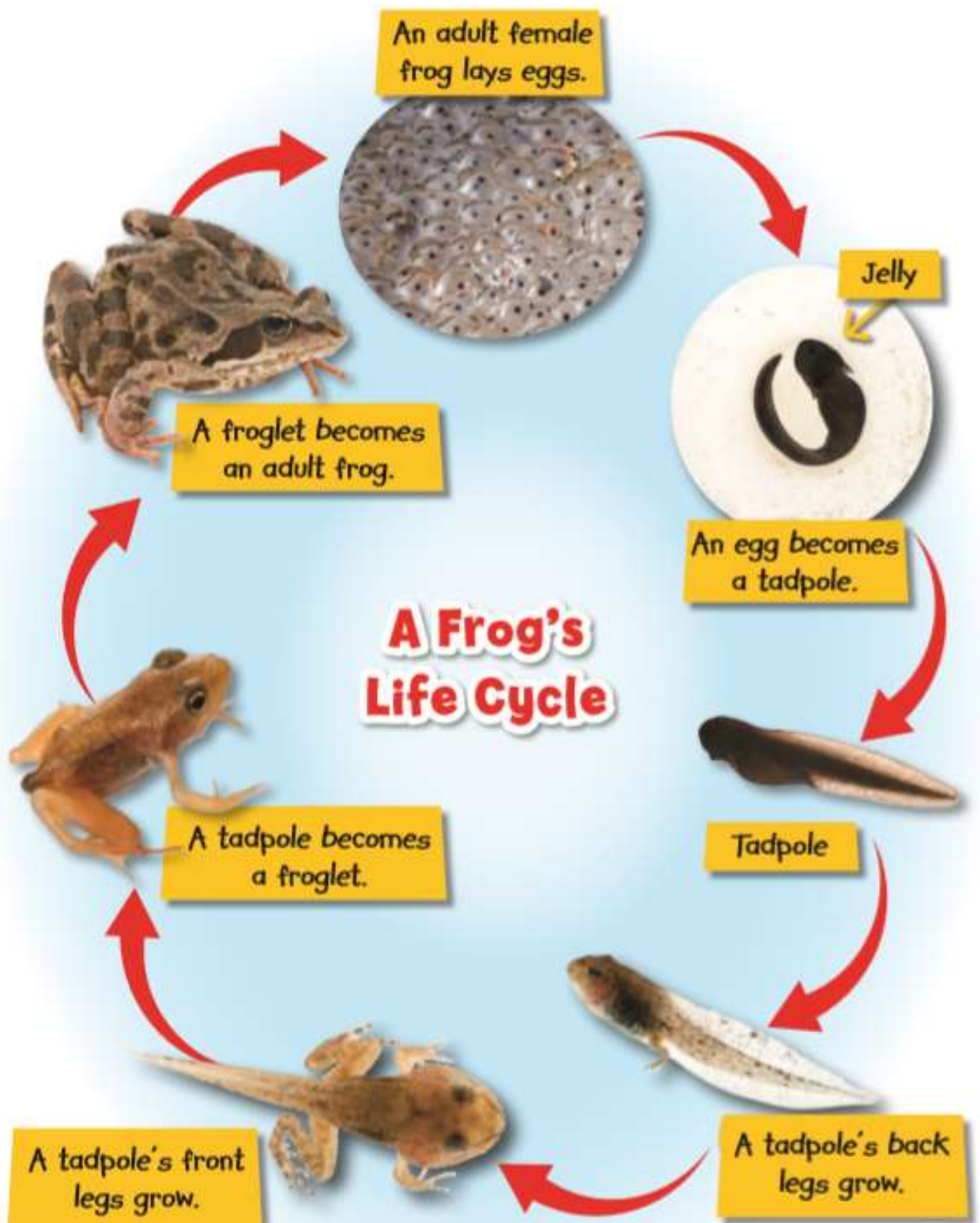
The tail has been reabsorbed by the body, so has disappeared.

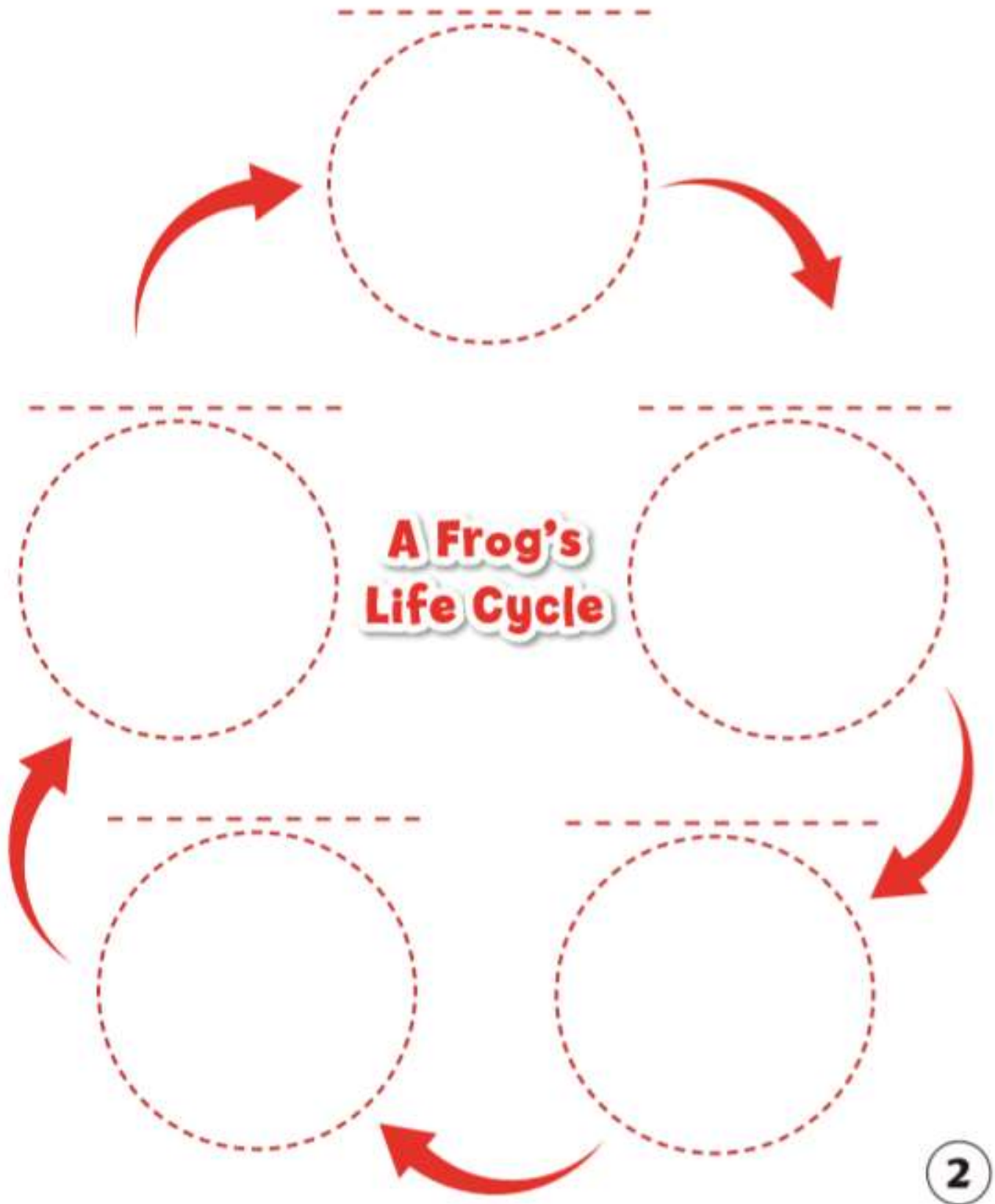


Life Cycle of a Frog

Cut out the pictures below, and match them to the four different stages of the life cycle at the bottom of the page. Glue the pictures down, then color the life cycle chart you made!







Cut out the pictures and stick them onto your frog life cycle in the correct order.



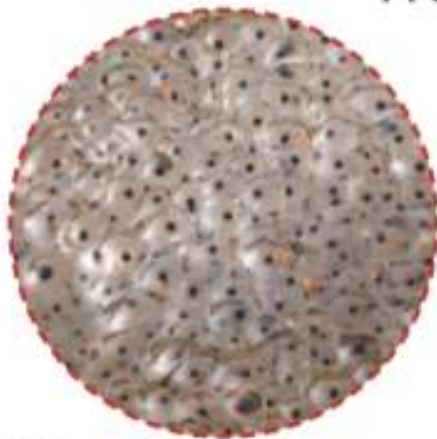
**A froglet becomes
an adult frog.**



**An egg becomes
a tadpole.**



A tadpole grows legs.



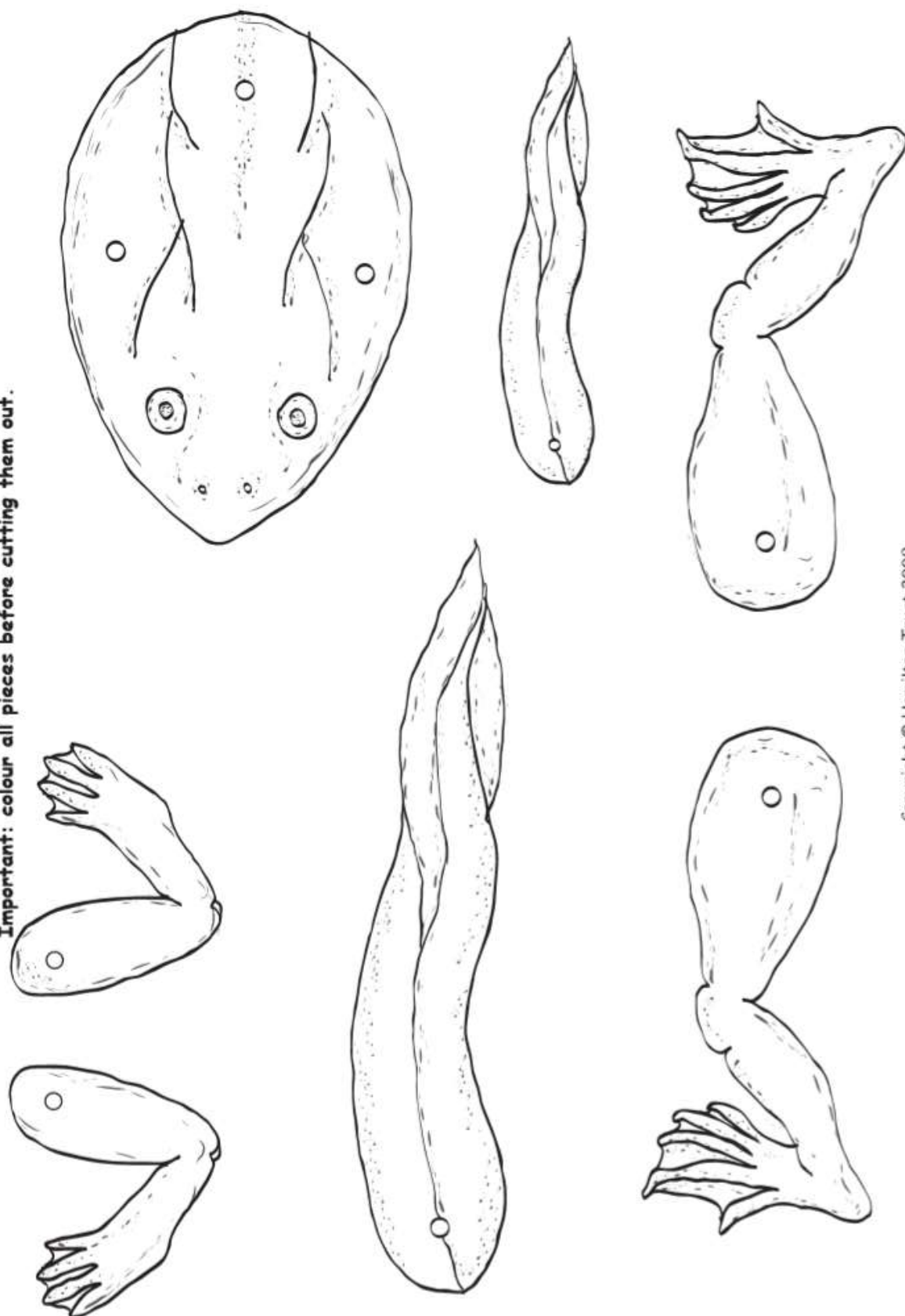
A female frog lays eggs.



A tadpole becomes a froglet.

Tadpole to Frog

Important: colour all pieces before cutting them out.

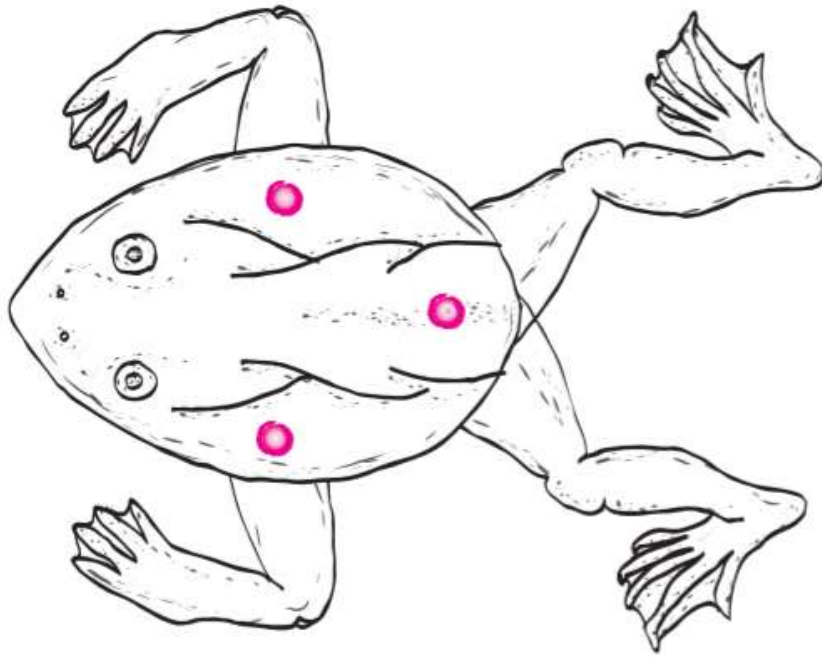
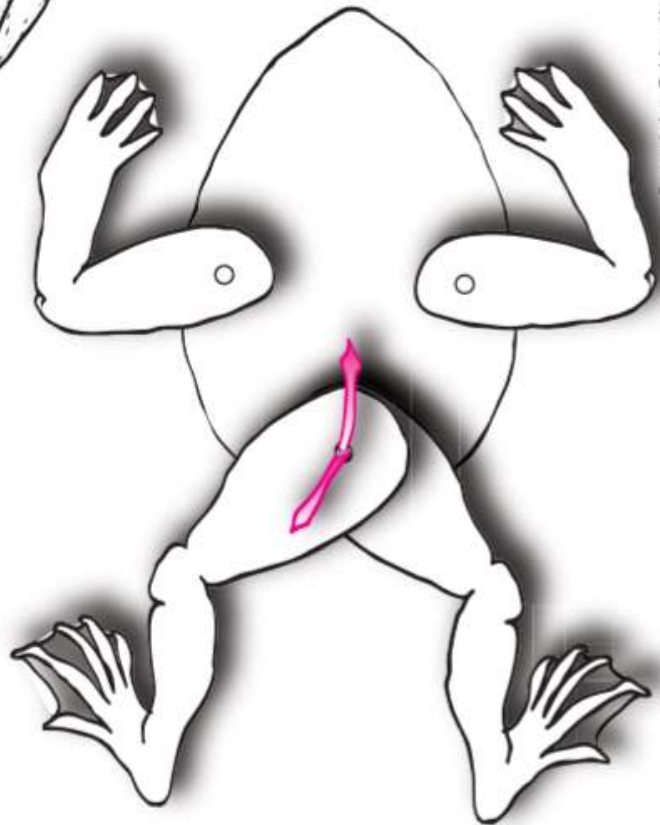
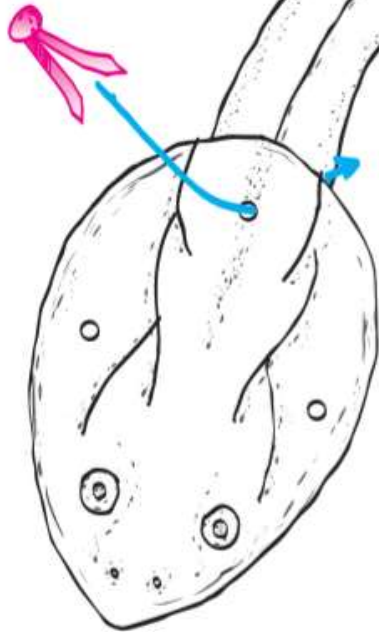


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Tadpole to Frog

Use a paper fastener to attach the tail to make a tadpole.

Attach front and back legs to make the adult frog.



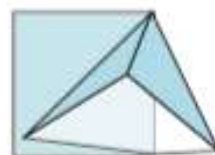
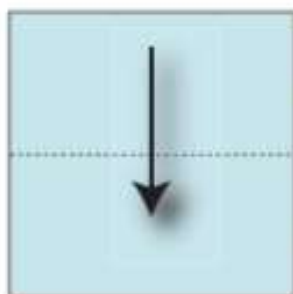
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The Origami Frog

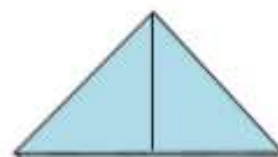
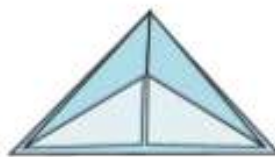
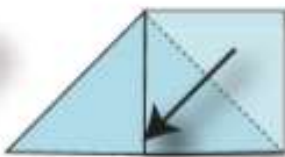
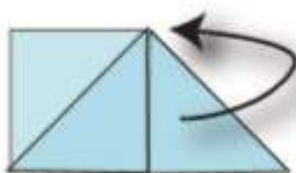


Fold in half and then fold in half again.

Fold one flap diagonally and then open the flap.

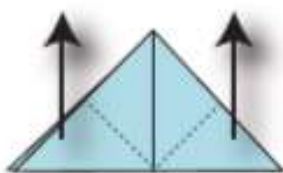


Flatten and flip then fold diagonally, open flap and flatten.



Fold top flaps inwards along the fold lines, flip and then fold the side flaps down.

Fold the edges upwards.



Fold the top edge down, fold the edges in and flip.

Finish off by drawing eyes etc...

