Animal Classifications

# Amphibians

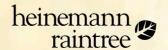




### Animal Classifications

# Amphibians

**Angela Royston** 



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Some words are shown in bold, like this. You can find out what they mean by looking in the glossary.

# Meet the Amphibians

Scientists divide living things into groups. This is called **classification**. The animals in each group have certain things in common. One group is called the amphibians. Most amphibians spend part of their lives in water and part on land.



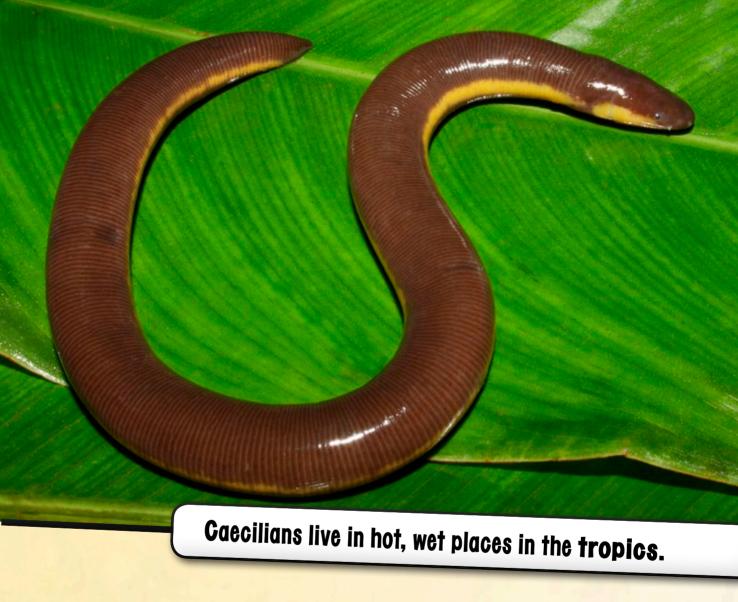


Amphibians are part of a larger group called vertebrates. All vertebrates have a backbone and a hard skeleton inside their bodies. Birds, reptiles, and mammals are also vertebrates.

## Body Shape

Amphibians are divided into three groups. You can tell which group an amphibian belongs to by the shape of its body. Adult frogs and toads have four legs and no tail. Salamanders and newts have four legs and a tail.





Caecilians have no legs and look a bit like worms. Most caecilians also **burrow** through the soil. Unlike worms, caecilians have bones and teeth.

## On the Move

Different amphibians move in different ways. Frogs and toads have webbed feet, which help them to swim fast through water. Most use their long back legs to hop over the ground.

When a frog is in danger, it quickly leaps to safety.





Salamanders and newts have short legs and squirm from side to side as they walk. Some amphibians spend most of their time in the water. They swim or crawl along the bottom of streams.

# Warming Up

Amphibians are cold-blooded. This means that they cannot make their own body heat, as birds and mammals do. Instead, they take in warmth from the sun and their surroundings.

