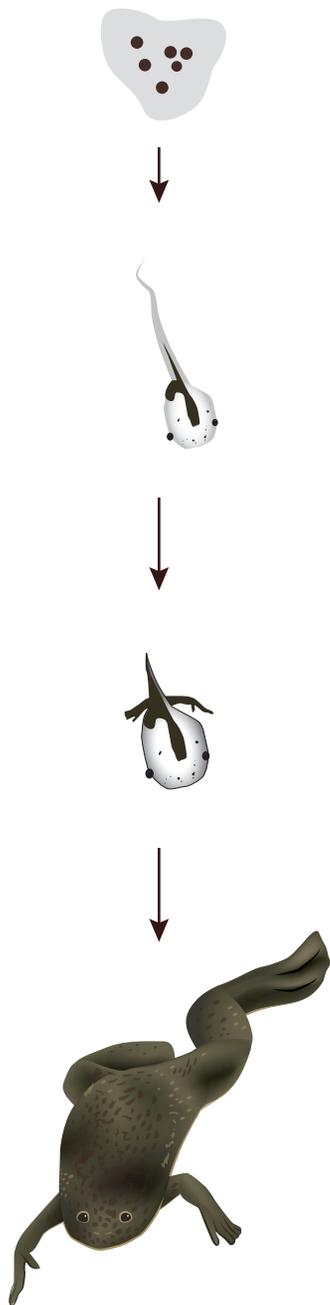


African Clawed Frog Life Cycle



Egg

The eggs are only about 2 mm in diameter. Development of the fertilized egg takes approximately 40 hours at 22 °C and can be accelerated at temperatures as high as 30 °C.

Tadpole

Early stage *Xenopus* tadpoles have very little pigmentation and are almost clear in color except for the internal body parts, which appear dark. They are generally between 7 to 10 mm in length. Late stage tadpoles are between 10 to 15 mm in length and have started to grow hind legs, but still share the same characteristics as the early stage tadpoles.

Froglet

Froglets have started their metamorphoses into frogs. Their heads have taken the shape of the adult frog and their limbs have grown. They reabsorb their tails into their abdomen. At this stage, the *Xenopus* have changed into their wild type (greenish-brown) color and are approximately 2 to 5 cm in length. They complete metamorphosis to frog within about 8 weeks of hatching.

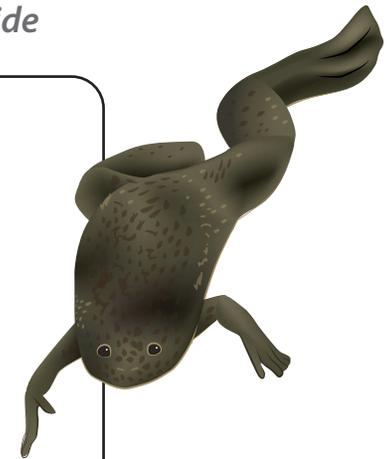
Frog

Frogs reach sexual maturity at about a year after hatching. Adult frogs are 5 to 12 cm and have been known to live up to 20 years in captivity.

African Clawed Frog *Xenopus laevis*

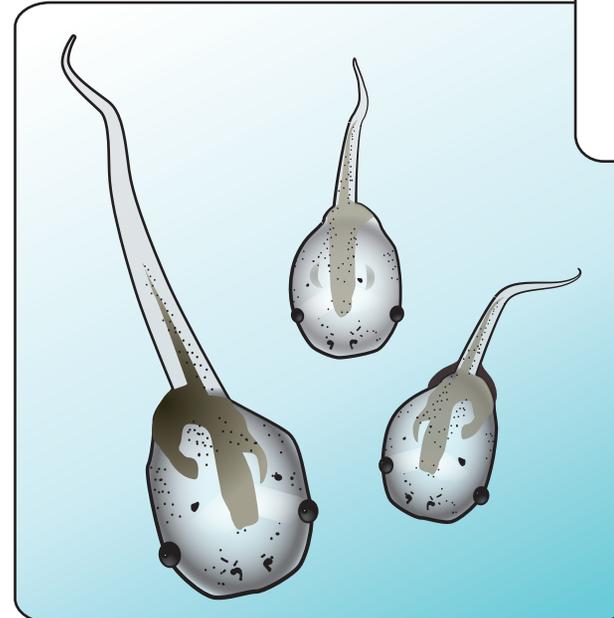
Ward's Science Visual Student Guide

Xenopus is native to African grassland ponds, streams, and lakes, in both arid and semi-arid climates. *Xenopus* are now found in many parts of the world with the appropriate climate and are considered to be an invasive species. *Xenopus* spend most of their time in the water and swim much more than they jump. They can become dormant in a mud burrow to survive a drought. In the wild, adults eat almost anything, including insects, dead animals, worms, small fish, and *Xenopus* tadpoles. Tadpoles are filter feeders, and eat mostly algae.



Kingdom: Animalia
Phylum: Chordata
Class: Amphibia
Order: Anura
Family: Pipidae
Genus: *Xenopus*
Species: *laevis*

Tadpoles



Illustrated by Leah Hofgesang

Tadpole Habitat Set Up

Set up a clean aquarium with pond, spring, or **dechlorinated** tap water. We recommend a minimum of 5 gallons for 12 tadpoles. Tap water can be dechlorinated by letting it sit out for 48 hours or by adding a dechlorinating solution.

Make sure the habitat is away from direct sunlight and heaters.

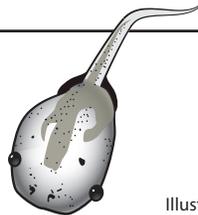


Aerate the habitat with a pump and air stone to improve oxygen and water circulation.

You may decorate the habitat with plants, rocks or pvc pipes for hiding. Live plants also serve as a natural food source.

A partial water change is recommended three times a week if there is no aeration, and once a week if aeration is present, even if the water does not appear cloudy. Always use dechlorinated water!

Early and late stage tadpoles are shipped in deli containers. Tadpoles are very small (about 1 cm) and are fragile.

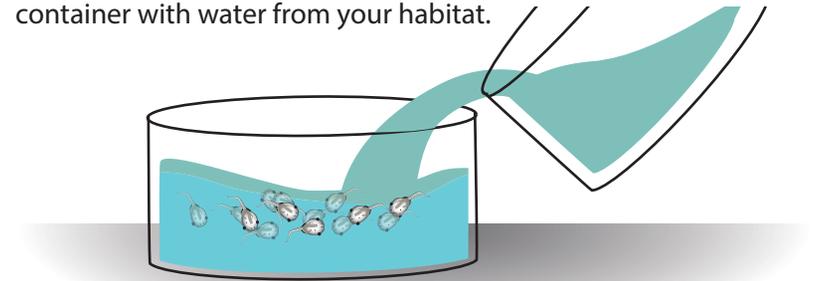


Illustrated by Leah Hofgesang

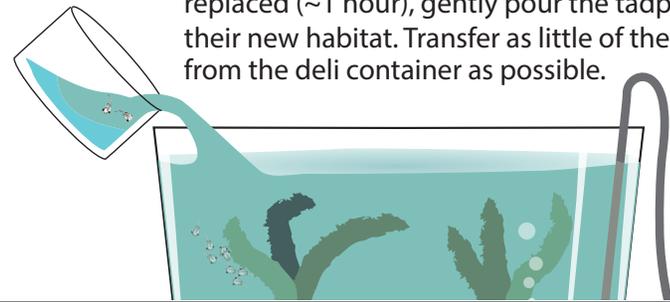
Tadpole Care Instructions Tadpoles are very fragile. Handle carefully.

Acclimation ~ 1 hour

Xenopus tadpoles ship in deli containers and can be kept in them for about a week. Set up the habitat in the meantime. Acclimate the tadpoles to the habitat by slowly replacing the water in the deli container with water from your habitat.



When all the water in the container has been replaced (~1 hour), gently pour the tadpoles into their new habitat. Transfer as little of the water from the deli container as possible.



Feeding

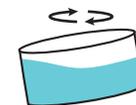
Feed everyday, but only as much as the tadpoles can consume in five minutes. Do not overfeed. Your tadpoles will consume anything smaller than their mouth.

Fish flakes and tadpole pellets are recommended.

① Add a pinch of pellets to hot water.



② Shake or stir.



③ Wait 15 minutes.



④ Decant off top layer.

⑤ Pour the remainder in the tank. It will be cloudy. It should clear in ~1/2 an hour. If not, change the water in a day or so and use less pellets.

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