

# Amphibian or Reptile?

## What is The Difference?

## Amphibians

- Lay soft eggs surrounded by gel.
- Have a two part lifecycle:-

a) They begin life in the water, breathing through gills.

b) They develop lungs in their adult stage to breathe air while living on land.

- Are vertebrates.
- Are ectothermic (cold blooded).
- Have smooth, moist skin that is sometimes sticky.
- Sometimes have toxic secretions in skin for defence.
- Have four limbs and five webbed digits.

#### Reptiles

- Lay hard, leathery eggs.
- Young develop in eggs and hatch fully developed.
- Are vertebrates.
- Are ectothermic (cold blooded).
- Have scales or modified scales.
- Have teeth and claws for defence.
- Usually have four limbs but some have no limbs. For example, snakes.

## A newt is an amphibian



• A newt belongs to the salamander family.

• Newts lay eggs in a gel sac which develop into an aquatic larva with gills. They grow into juvenile land creatures called efts before maturing into their adult stage.

• A newt has smooth skin. They absorb oxygen through their skin.

• Many newts produce toxic secretions in their skin for protection against predators.

• Newts have four equal sized legs.

• Newts (and salamanders) have the ability to regenerate body parts. Macrophage cells in their body are responsible for their ability to quickly regenerate tissue.

• Scientists are studying salamanders and newts to find a way to promote healing and re-growth of organs in humans.

#### An iguana is a reptile

- An iguana belongs to the reptile family.
- Iguanas lay eggs which hatch fully developed.
- An iguana has scaly skin.
- They have a droopy flap of skin under their neck called a 'dewlap' and a row of spines along their back.

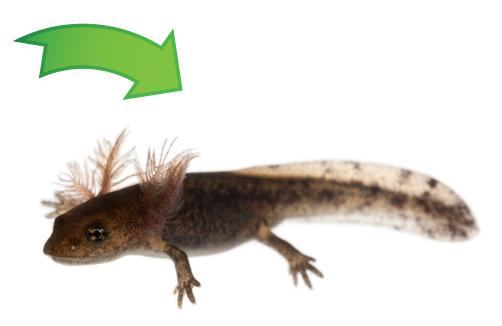
• Iguanas have four legs with long thin toes with sharp claws.

- Iguanas are very speedy and are agile climbers.
- Iguanas use their long tail for protection and for climbing.





Salamander eggs in a gel-like egg sac



Juvenile fire salamander with gills







Adult fire salamander