Microslide Descriptions

1. Frog Egg

The female frog lays thousands of eggs in the pond. One of these eggs was separated from the others so that we could watch it develop. The frog egg in this slide has been magnified many times. Actually, it is about the size of the head of a pin.

Can you see something light surrounding the egg? It is a jelly-like material, which has many purposes. It joins the eggs and keeps them together, protecting them from injury. It also protects them by making it difficult for fish to grasp the slippery eggs.

2. Frog Embryo

Within a few days the egg grows into something that looks like this. Which part looks as though it might develop into a head, which into a tail?

Does this embryo appear to have a mouth? If it does not, how does it get its food? The round light-colored part of the embryo contains yolk, which supplies food to the growing tadpole. It will also depend upon food stored in its tail.

3. Newly Hatched Tadpoles

The newly hatched tadpole begins life by attaching itself to an under-water plant. How has the tadpole changed in comparison to slide 2? Has the tail become larger or smaller? Has the yolk sac become larger or smaller?

The tadpole will soon have to find his own food. How will his tail help him?
4. Tadpole - Outside gills

The tadpole is now ready to swim around and catch his own food. Can you locate three important parts of the tadpole, which will help him get his own food? (Eyes - to see food, tail - to swim towards food, mouth- to catch and eat food.)

Just below the eye you can see a long darker spot. The tadpole now has outside gills. These gills enable it to breathe under water.

5. Tadpole - Hind Legs

Notice how clearly you can now see the gills. As the water passes over the tadpole, the gills separate the oxygen from the water so that the tadpole can breathe.

By now you do not have to guess about the growth on the underside, where the tail and body connect. These will be the hind legs of the frog.

6. Tadpole - Front legs

The front legs have now developed. The outside gills have disappeared. The tadpole has developed inside gills. It now breathes by taking water into its mouth. The water passes through the inside gills and goes out by way of gill slits at the side of the head. The inside gills use the oxygen from the water and the tadpole's blood carries the oxygen to all parts of its body.

7. Tail Disappearing

The tadpole has now grown so that it looks almost like a frog. Can you see anything that reminds you that this animal was once a tadpole? The tail did not drop of; it was absorbed by the body as food. Inside the chest, the frog has now developed lungs. It must now come out of the water to breathe.

8. Adult Frog