

EDUCATION

(2009)

 EDU 007

Collecting spawn is an excellent way of studying the amazing change or 'metamorphosis' from tadpole to adult.

Keeping spawn is a very useful conservation exercise as the so-called 'common frog' is on the decline. Once you have reared the tiny frogs they can be released back into the wild.

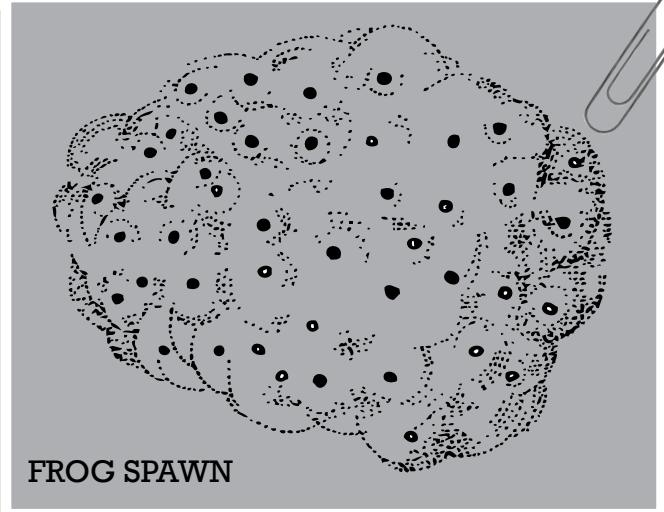
As soon as the weather starts to warm up, male and female frogs make their way to their breeding ponds and before long the edges of the pond are thick with masses of eggs or frogspawn.

Collect the spawn as soon as it appears. It will probably be about April. Take only a handful of spawn and some pond weed leaving most of the spawn in the pond.

Keep the spawn in a dish or bowl. Change the water every 2-3 days. Keep the container out of direct sunlight. Within a few days you will see the black eggs changing. By the time the spawn is 10 days old the tadpoles will have wriggled out of the jelly and will be clinging on to the pond weed.

At first tadpoles feed only on pond weed but as their back legs start to grow they begin to eat meat. Cat or dog food is ideal. As their tails shrink and the froglets lose their gills and begin to breath air, they will start to crawl out of the water. You must provide them with small stones on which they can climb.

When they reach this stage you **MUST** release them back into the wild as only in their natural habitat will they be able to find the constant supply of insects they need. Be sure to put them back in the pond or lake where you found the original spawn to ensure the adult frogs have the correct environment to live in (See EDU006 for instructions on how to set up an aquarium.)



FROG SPAWN



FROG

