Reptiles and amphibians resource pack

HERITAGE FUND

Esmée Fairbairn FOUNDATION

ARG UK

HSI

Comhairle Ceantair an Iúir, Mhúrn agus an Dúin
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

FACT FILE

1

Reptiles

- Cold blooded
- Have scales
- Lay eggs on land

SAMPLE TEX SAMPLE TEX SAMPLE TEXT

Amphibians

- Cold blooded
- Smooth, moist skin
- Lay eggs in water
- Multiple life stages

ACTIVITY

1

WHAT CAME FIRST THE NEWT OR THE EGG?

Indicate the order and discuss changes in this newts life cycle

ACTIVITY 2

WORD SEARCH

U	I	A	E	E	S	O	K	H	L	D	H	G	M
U	D	N	N	T	M	N	S	M	S	N	I	E	E
H	A	R	N	R	T	I	A	E	N	O	B	L	T
H	N	O	A	R	H	I	B	R	O	P	E	A	A
H	H	I	S	Z	M	A	H	O	T	F	R	R	M
L	C	N	C	I	I	P	O	E	G	L	N	V	O
E	T	L	A	S	F	L	T	Z	D	T	A	A	R
E	T	F	R	O	G	A	L	D	C	E	C	E	P
A	V	E	E	G	G	E	P	E	L	T	U	S	H
A	E	A	B	G	S	S	O	E	I	A	L	I	O
M	Z	H	E	A	T	H	H	U	N	E	U	A	S
S	R	R	E	A	L	R	G	W	E	A	M	F	I
R	O	S	W	G	A	T	W	E	N	L	M	B	S
R	A	L	G	E	S	T	U	O	S	N	M	U	G

EGG
POND
NEWT
HIBERNACULUM
HEATH
BASK
LIZARD
METAMORPHOSIS
LARVAE
FROG

FACT FILE 2

Common Frog

Latin name: *Rana temporaria*

Length: 8—13 cm

Weight: 22g

Lifespan: 5—10 years

Habitat: can be found anywhere where there are suitable water bodies for breeding including ponds, ditches and lakes.

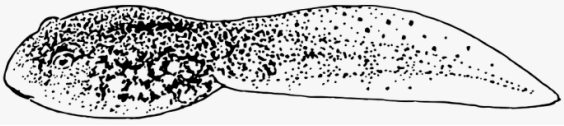
ACTIVITY 3

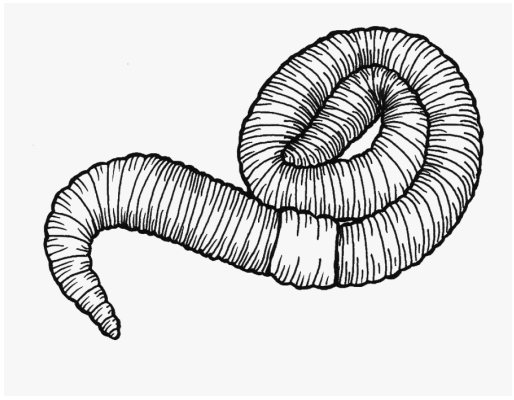
DRAGON FOOD

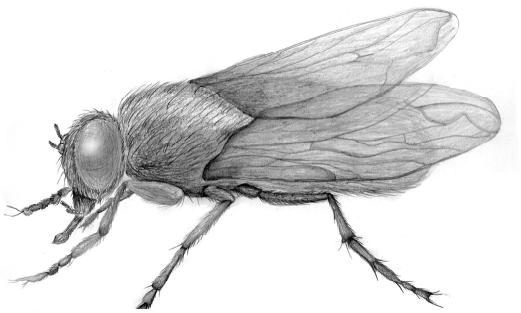
Here are some pictures of what our native reptiles and amphibians might eat.

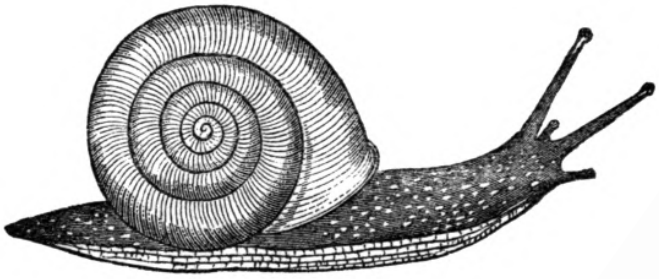
Use the list to label them correctly, and discuss which species; the frog, newt or lizard might eat them.

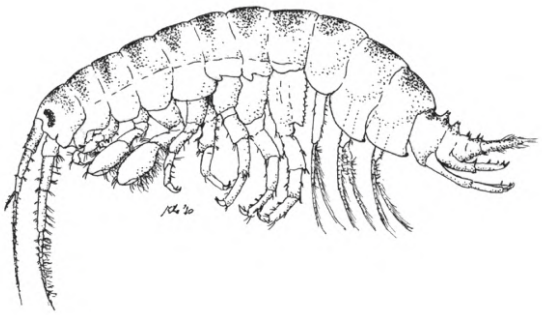
Grasshopper, earthworm, slug, spider, tadpole, freshwater shrimp, snail, fly

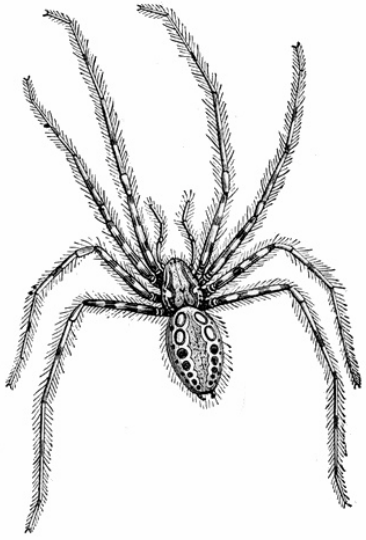


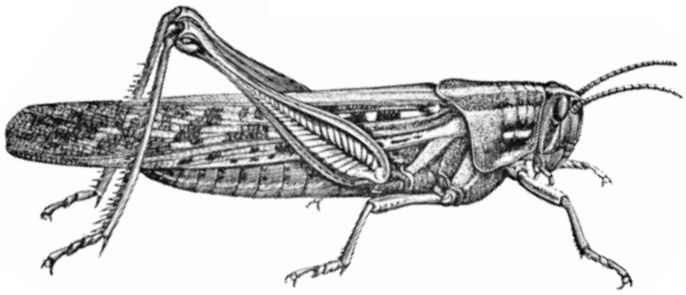


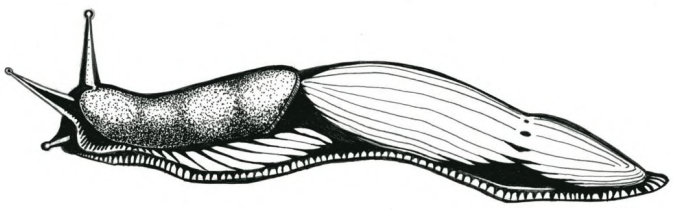












FACT FILE

3

Smooth Newt

Latin name: *Lissotriton vulgaris*

Length: 9—11 cm

Weight: 4—6g

Lifespan: 6—14 years

Habitat: a wide range of aquatic and terrestrial habitats, but most easily spotted during spring and summer in ponds and quarries.

ACTIVITY

4

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Male and female newts can be confused in autumn and winter, but during the breeding season they look quite different. Can you identify and circle three differences between them?

MALE

FEMALE

ACTIVITY

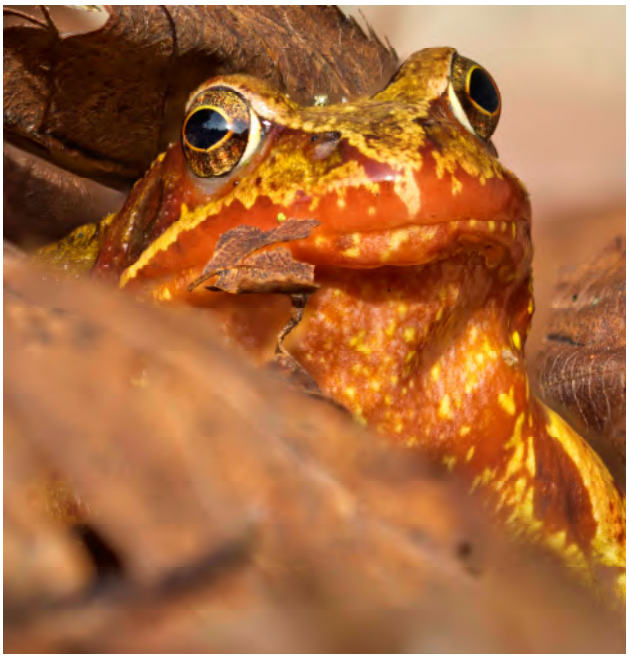
5

UNSCRAMBLE THE NAMES

TRENTERAKJC DOAT

MNCOMO DRIZAL

OSHTOM TEWN



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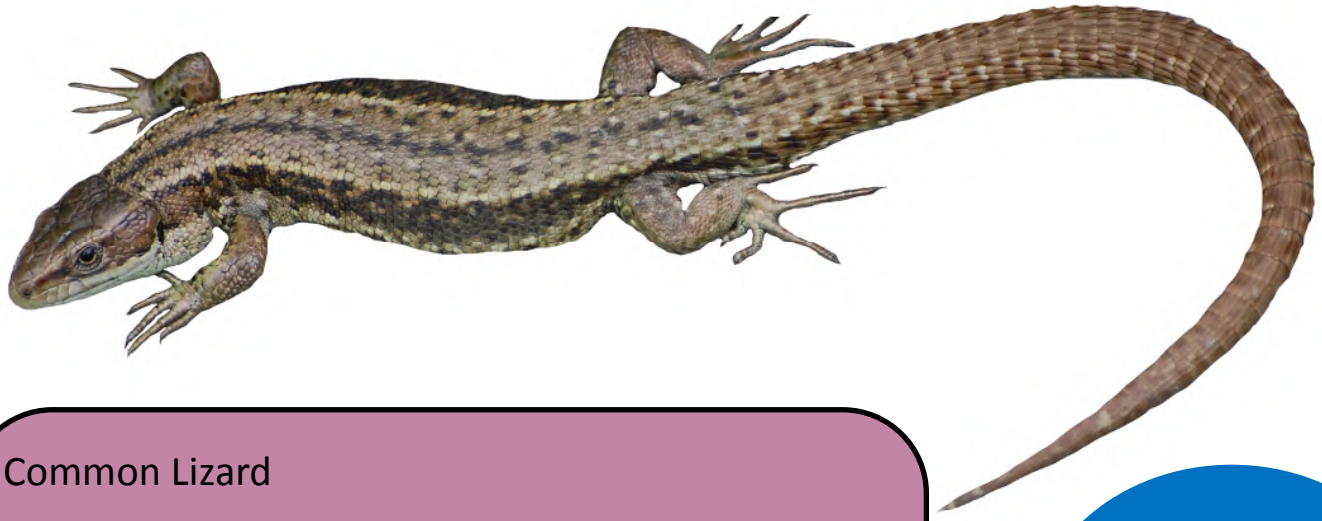

Common Lizard

Latin name: Zootoca vivipara

Length: 13—15 cm

Weight: 4—8g

Lifespan: 5—8 years

Habitat: This species lives in a variety of habitats, including peat bogs, heathlands, meadows, woodland edge and sand dunes.

FACT FILE

4

ACTIVITY

6

SEEING THE WORLD AS A DRAGON

Our senses determine how we perceive the world, humans are very visual animals. Look at these photos of animals and discuss what senses might be important

ACTIVITY 7

AMAZING ADAPTATIONS

Draw a newt, lizard or frog and label its with its special adaptations that help it to survive (look at the photos throughout for clues!)

HOMES OF HERPETOFAUNA

ACTIVITY 8

Habitats are the natural home or environment of an animal. Below are a number of pictures of habitats that amphibians and reptiles in Ireland love. Look at the photos and write underneath what the habitat is, and who lives there!

Habitat 1.

What is it?.....

Who lives here?.....

Habitat 2.

What is it?.....

Who lives here?.....

ACTIVITY 8

HOMES OF HERPETOFAUNA

Habitat 3.

What is it?.....

Who lives here?.....

Habitat 4.

What is it?.....

Who lives here?.....

THREATS

The main threat facing our reptiles and amphibians in Ireland is habitat loss.

We have destroyed over 92% of lowland bogs in Northern Ireland and 75% of upland bogs, two of the key natural habitats for these threatened species,

These changes are driven by land conversion, overgrazing by live-stock and peatcutting for fuel.

FACT FILE

5

ACTIVITY

9

CONCERNING CONVERSIONS!

Land conversion is driving the loss of our native amphibi-ans favourite habitat. Think and sketch some ideas of what upland bogs might be being converted into?

ANYONE CAN BE A CONSERVATION HERO

ACTIVITY 10

REPORT YOUR SIGHTINGS

Go on a local nature walk, and record any reptile or amphibian sightings, whether it be a common frog, or the slightly lesser known smooth newt or common lizard, report your sightings to publicly available databases.

National centre for biodiversity data:

CEDaR: https://www.nmni.com/CEDaR/CEDaR-Centre-for-Environmental-Data-and-Recording.aspx

Amphibian and reptile record centre:

Record pool: https://www.recordpool.org.uk/

CEDaR
Centre for Environmental Data and Recording

A HELPING HAND

Everyone can do their part in helping conserve wildlife for the future, with sustainability and restoration at the forefront of ways individuals can help.

ACTIVITY 11

CHOOSING SUSTAINABILITY

In the examples below, circle which option you think will benefit wildlife and discuss why.

Example 1.

or

Example 2.

or

Example 3.

or

DIGGING FOR NATURE

FACT FILE

6

Fresh Water Ponds

Ponds are important hotspots for **biodiversity**. Collectively, they **support** more species, and more scarce species, than any other **freshwater** habitat

ACTIVITY

12

THE FINAL CHALLENGE:

HOME BASED HABITAT CREATION

One of the best things anyone can do to help conserve our native reptiles and amphibians is by prod ng habitat for them.

This can be very simple small actions, for example leaving a patch of your garden, wild and unmowed, to help support local invertebrates, a key prey source of our native species.

Or if you are ready to take the plunge and be amazed by biodiversity in your back garden, dig a pond! See guides and resources here:

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