

Name _____

From Egg to Bullfrog Part I

Every now and then, when we're camping by the lake, we hear a loud frog song coming from the reeds. It's not really a pretty song unless you're another big green frog! Splish! Splash! Jump, frog, jump! Where did they come from?

These summertime singers are born by themselves in the spring, hatching from tiny eggs that their mother frog laid in the reeds. Mother frogs don't stay around to take care of their babies, so every tiny little tadpole wiggles out of an egg all by itself. Every one is not much bigger than the end of your pencil. That's pretty small! They have no legs, no eyes, and no mouth!

They soon develop gills for breathing and their eyes and mouths. What do tadpoles eat? How do they eat? They nibble on plants with a tiny tooth-beak as they start swimming around the lake or pond. They eat all summer and during the fall, but they have to hide from every beetle and duck that would like to have them for lunch!

Next, every tiny tadpole swims down to the muddy bottom and sleeps all winter. That's a pretty long time, isn't it?

They wake up in the spring and eat and eat and eat some more. They sleep through their second winter. In the spring, when they are two years old, some pretty strange things begin to happen. They grow four legs, front and back, and their gills change to lungs. Their mouths grow wider and a great, big, sticky tongue grows inside. We all know what that is for!

Number of words read correctly:

1	2	3	4