



  
**LifeCycles**

Carmilla de la Bédoyère

**Tadpole** to **Frog**





Words in **bold**  
are explained in  
the glossary on  
page 22.

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# What is a frog?

A frog is an **amphibian**. It spends part of its life living in water, and part of its life on land.

Amphibians lay their eggs in water. They live in wet places, often near ponds or lakes.

⇔ Common frogs have smooth, damp skin and golden eyes.





Some frogs live in wet rain forests. They are called tree frogs. Most tree frogs are much smaller than frogs that live on the ground.

⇒ This tree frog's big, red eyes and orange feet scare other animals away.



Eye

Foot



# The story of a frog

A young frog is called a **tadpole**. It looks quite different from a frog!

This small animal begins its life as an egg. The amazing story of how it becomes an adult frog is called its **life cycle**.



Egg



2



Tadpole

⇔ A frog goes through three stages in its life cycle. It spends all of the first two stages in water.

Frog

3





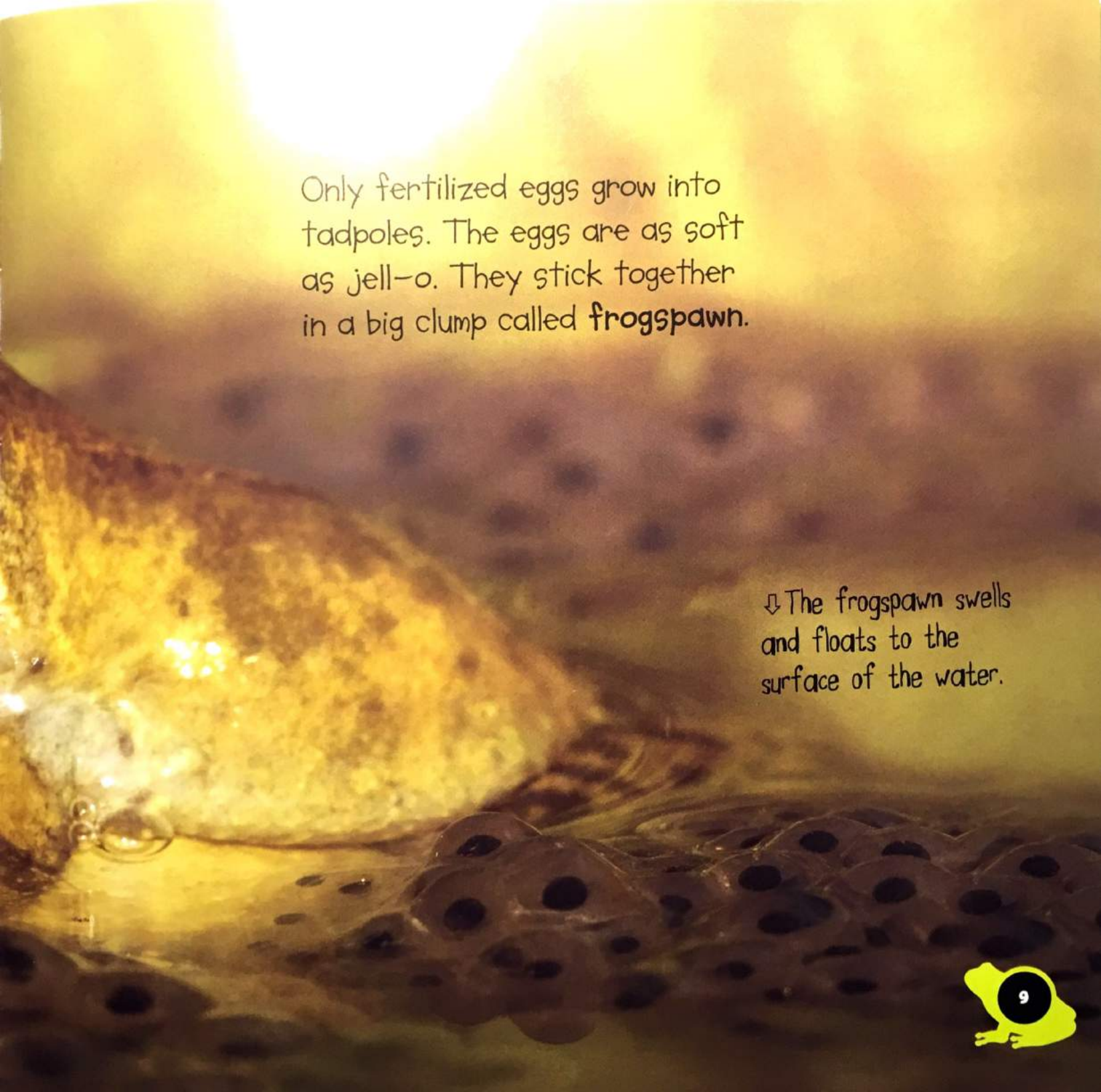
# Frogspawn

In spring, male and female frogs come together to **mate**. They always mate in water.

A male grasps a female tightly. As the female lays her eggs, the male covers them with a liquid. The liquid fertilizes the eggs.







Only fertilized eggs grow into tadpoles. The eggs are as soft as jell-o. They stick together in a big clump called **frogspawn**.

↓ The frogspawn swells and floats to the surface of the water.







# Inside the eggs

Once the eggs are laid, the adult frogs swim away. Inside each egg, a new tadpole is growing.

The tadpole feeds on a small **yolk** in the egg, and grows bigger.

⇒ A female frog may lay hundreds of eggs at a time.





Many of the eggs are eaten by fish and other pond animals. But some survive, and their tadpoles keep growing.

After a few weeks, the eggs hatch. They hatch sooner in warm weather than they do in cold weather.





# Tiny tadpoles

Tadpoles are tiny when they hatch, but they quickly grow.

Each tadpole has a long tail, which it uses to swim. It has feathery **gills** on either side of its head. These allow the young tadpole to breathe underwater.

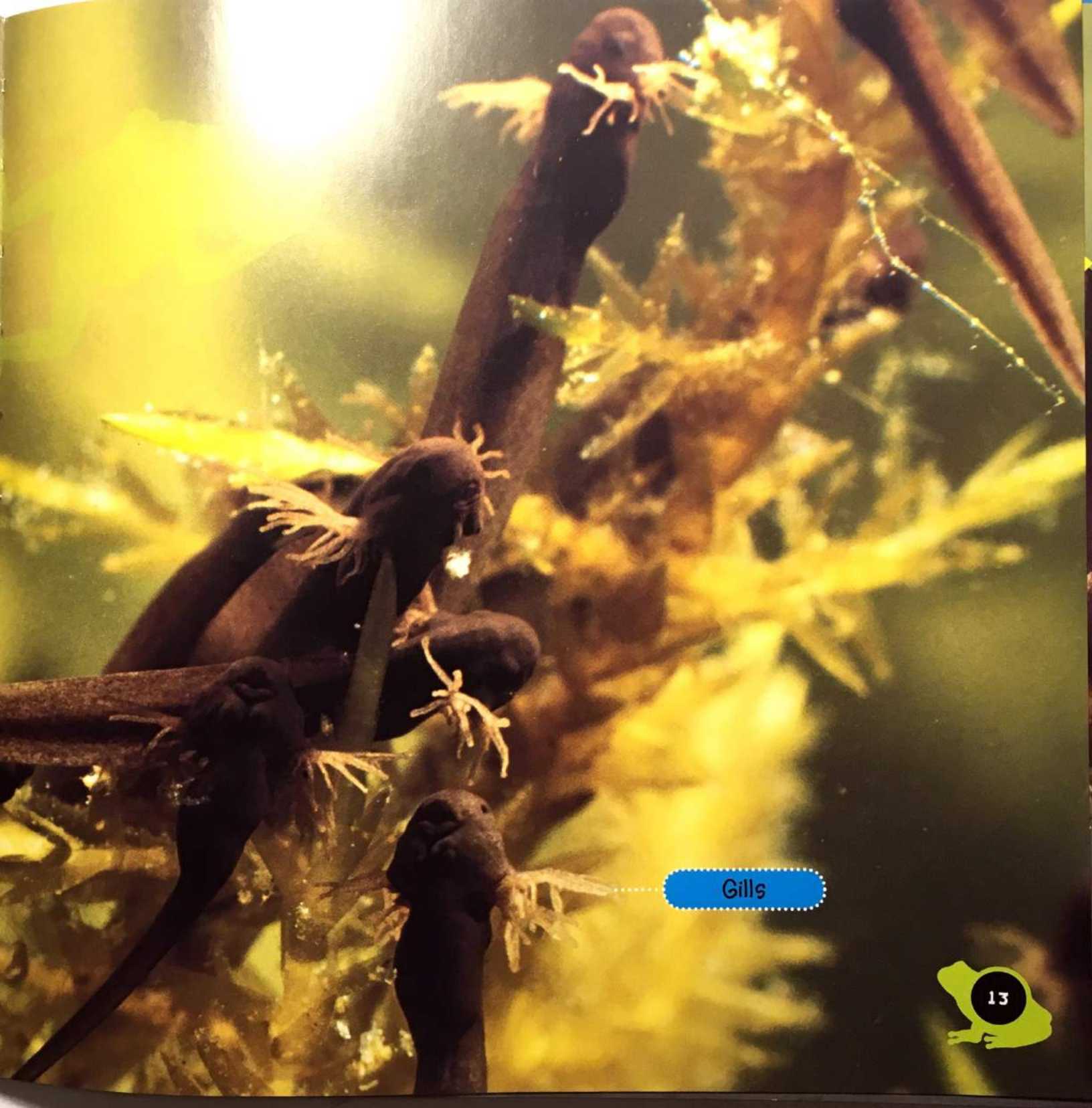
To begin with, tadpoles just eat small, green water plants. Later, they will also eat pond animals, such as water fleas.

⇒ Tadpoles feed and grow. They grow faster when they live in warm water with plenty of food.



Tail





Gills