

Amphibians at Risk

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If you visit here in winter, watch your step! Newts emerge with the onset of fall rains. Leaving their summer shelter of burrows or rotten logs, the traveling salamanders (newts) crawl to streams and ponds in order to breed. Navigating by sight and smell, some journey a mile or more to mate.



California newt laying eggs.

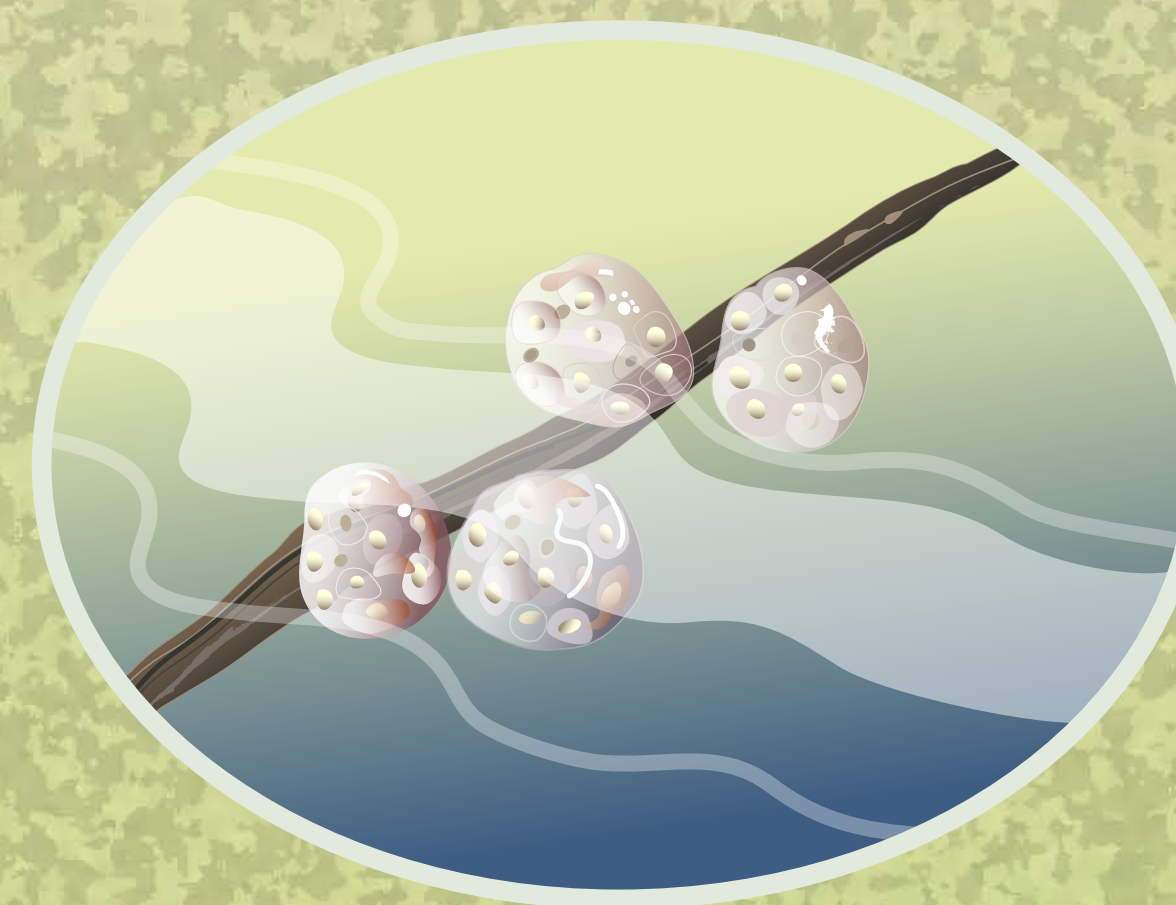
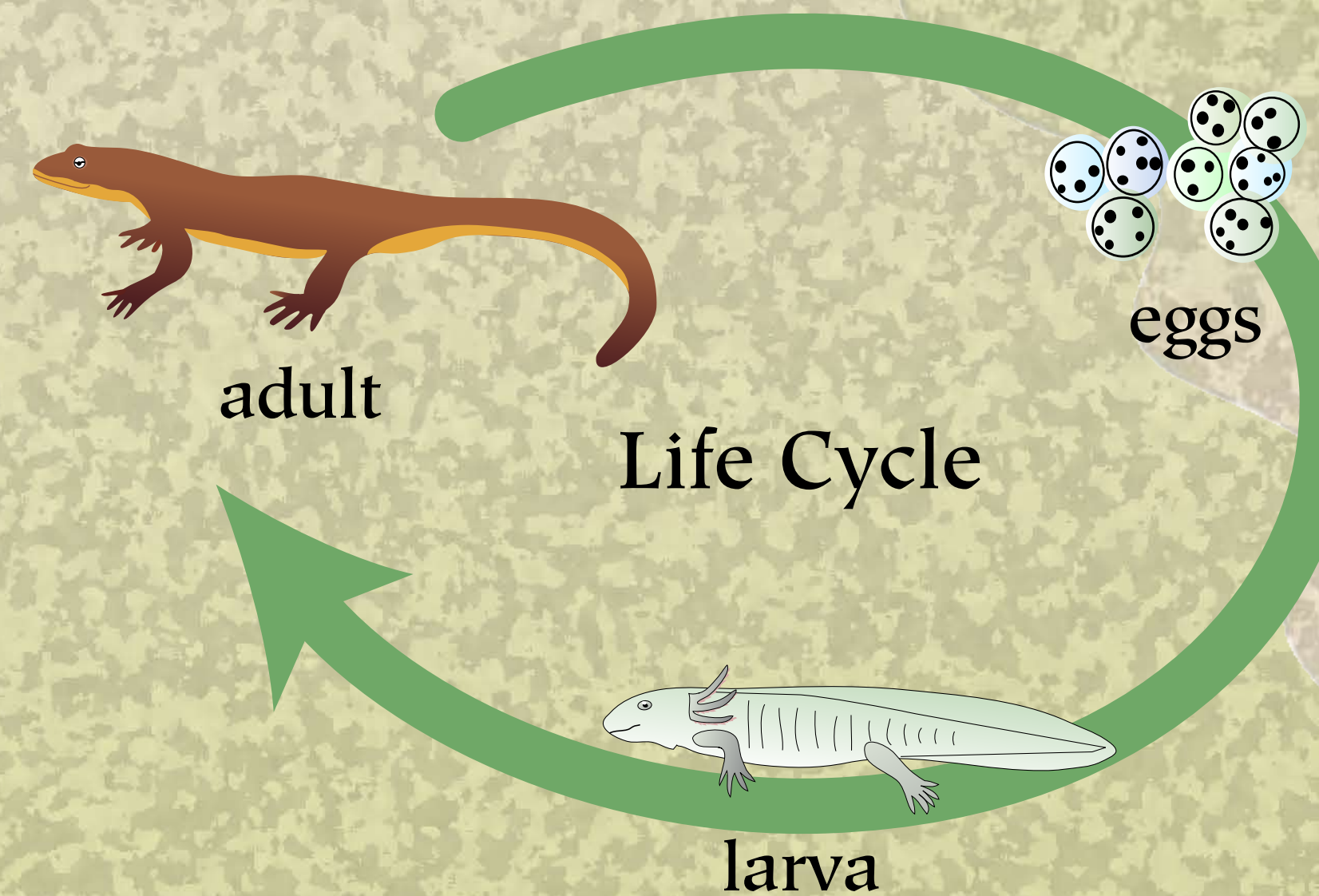
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By January, female newts usually lay dozens of gelatinous egg masses underwater. The sacs are often clustered at the water's edge, where the temperature is warmer and they develop faster. Small, shimmering larvae hatch out a few months later. They breathe with gills until transforming into adults with lungs.



California newt (*Taricha torosa*).

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California newts usually lay eggs in sacs attached to plants.

East Bay 
Regional Park District
www.ebparks.org



illustration: Doyle Wegner

Healthy freshwater habitats are essential to the survival of these newts and other amphibians. These sensitive creatures face risk from all corners: illegal collecting, habitat destruction, traffic on their migratory routes, acid rain—and even UV radiation from thinning of the earth's ozone layer.

Please enjoy and help us protect this precious parkland resource.