

All About

Salamanders

General Info:

Salamanders are smooth skinned amphibians that have four legs and eighteen toes in total. They rely on moisture to survive and can be earth tones or even bright colors such as red, orange, or yellow.



Spotted Salamander, Joel Sartore, National Geographic

Habitat:

Terrestrial salamanders live in moist places such as under rocks, damp logs and woodland debris. Aquatic salamanders live in water all of their lives.



Spotted Salamander in Habitat, National Geographic Kids

Reproduction and Mating Habits:

Salamanders are able to reproduce in large sums, they will mate in the early spring during warm rains. Males entice females with a dance then lead them to spermatophore.



Spotted Salamander Spermatophore in Vermont Lake, 2018, placeumv

Benefits

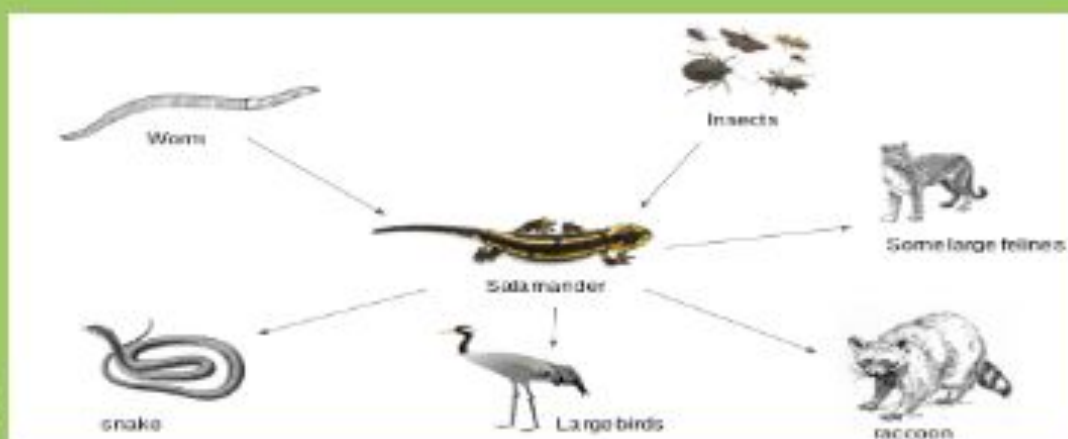
Peptides in the mucus on their skin can be used in antibiotics. Scientists are also studying how salamanders have the ability to grow their tails which can help medicine in the future.



Axolotl, Limb Regeneration, Harvard University

Food Web

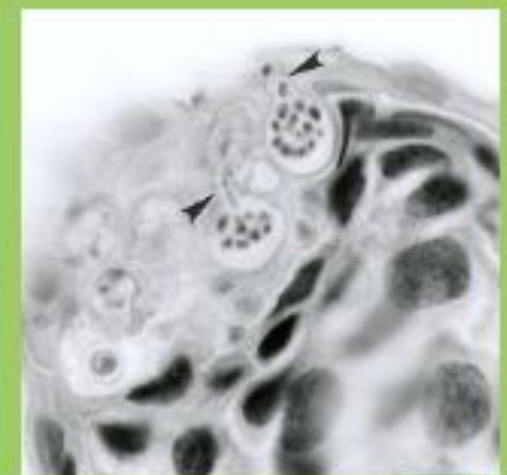
Salamanders are carnivores that prey mostly on worms and insects. Salamanders are eaten by raccoons, snakes, herons, cranes, and even cougars.



Hailey Lightcap and Luke Dolan, 2019

Diseases

Salamanders' moist skin make it very hospitable for microbes such as chytrid fungus to grow.



Daszak P. "Emerging Infectious Diseases and Amphibians Population Decline", 1999

2019 Brookville Biodiversity Project
Salamanders: Hailey and Luke.
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