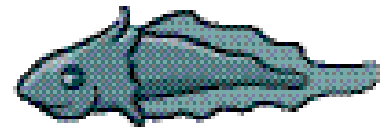
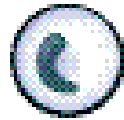


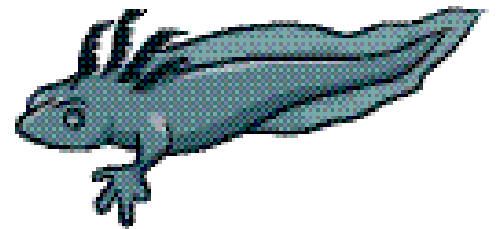
Fire-Bellied Newt Life Cycle

The fire-bellied newt (*Cynops orientalis*) begins life in the water, becomes terrestrial during its eft stage, and then returns to the water as an adult to live and breed.

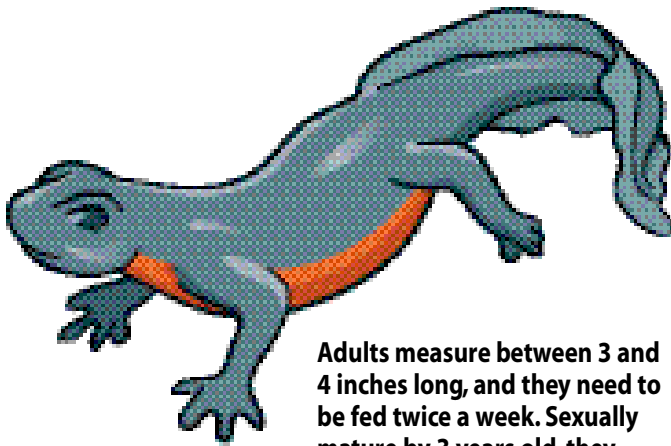
Eggs are laid in water and coated in a protective, jellylike substance. They are often wrapped individually in soft, flexible leaves after being laid. A female can produce 200 to 400 eggs each breeding season. They hatch within two to three weeks.



Larvae are carnivorous after hatching. They can be fed brine shrimp and baby *Daphnia* crustaceans daily.



Limbs begin to develop. Although larvae possess lungs, they are not yet functional, so gills are used until metamorphosis. As larvae grow, they can be fed larger *Daphnia* crustaceans, white worms and bloodworms daily. Large larvae are especially voracious. If they are not provided with enough food, they will attack one another.



Adults measure between 3 and 4 inches long, and they need to be fed twice a week. Sexually mature by 3 years old, they return to the water to breed in late winter until early spring.



The feathery external gills shrink, and the lungs begin to function. The newt becomes terrestrial for a period of time. Make sure land is available because they will spend much of their time there until they develop into adults and return to the water.