The Pond Puzzle



Maya and Theo were visiting Willow Marsh on a warm spring day. Near the reeds, they spotted clear jelly blobs floating in the pond. Tiny black dots rested inside each blob.

‘Are those baby frogs?’ Theo asked.

Ms. Lila smiled. ‘That is our first clue,’ she said. ‘Today, we are going to follow the frog life cycle from the very beginning.’

Eggs in the Water



Ms. Lila knelt beside the pond and pointed to the floating eggs.

Frogs begin life in water.

A mother frog lays many soft eggs, and the jelly around them helps protect the tiny embryos inside.

The eggs stay wet and safe while the babies grow.

Maya leaned closer. ‘The pond is like a nursery,’ she said.

‘That’s a wonderful way to think about it,’ Ms. Lila replied.

Science Fables

Tadpole Time



After a while, the eggs hatch into tadpoles.

Tadpoles swim with long tails and breathe in the water using gills.

At first, they do not have legs at all.

They wiggle through the pond and nibble tiny bits of plant matter.

Theo watched one dart past his boot. ‘It looks more like a fish than a frog,’ he said.

Ms. Lila laughed. ‘For now, yes—but it still has more changing to do.’

Growing Legs



Week by week, the tadpole changes shape.

First, hind legs appear.

Then front legs grow, and lungs begin to develop so the young frog can breathe air.

Its tail slowly becomes smaller as its body changes.

Maya smiled. ‘It is changing step by step.’

‘That big change is called metamorphosis,’ Ms. Lila explained.

Science Fables

Ready to Hop



Soon the tadpole becomes a froglet.

It now has four legs, and only a little tail may still remain.

Before long, the tail disappears, and the frog is ready to hop, swim, and explore both water and land.

Theo grinned as a small frog leaped onto a lily pad.

‘Now I can see the whole journey,’ he said.

Ms. Lila nodded. ‘From egg to tadpole to frog—every stage matters.’

Science Fables

Science Element



A frog life cycle has several stages: egg, tadpole, tadpole with legs, froglet, and adult frog.

Frogs begin in water.

As they grow, they change body shape, grow legs, develop lungs, and lose their tail.

This major body change is called metamorphosis.

Simple idea: a frog does not stay the same as it grows up.

It changes stage by stage until it becomes an adult frog.