

Name _____

Defense Tactics: How Amphibians Protect Themselves from Predators

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Camouflage is an effective defense tactic for amphibians because it allows them to blend in with their surroundings, making it difficult for predators to detect them. This increases their chances of avoiding detection and escaping predation.
2. The ability to detach their tails benefits certain species of salamanders by providing them with an escape mechanism when grabbed by predators. By detaching their tails, salamanders can distract predators and increase their chances of survival.
3. A symbiotic relationship with another organism, such as specialized tadpole-eating insects, can provide protection for amphibians by keeping predatory fish away from their eggs. By laying their eggs in locations where these insects are present, amphibians ensure that their offspring are protected from potential threats.
4. It might be advantageous for some amphibians to be nocturnal rather than active during the day because many of their predators are diurnal (active during the day), making it safer for them to forage for food and engage in other activities under the cover of darkness.

