

Name _____

Amphibian Appetites: Exploring the Diet and Feeding Behavior of Frogs, Toads, and Salamanders

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Frogs and toads sit quietly and wait for prey to come within striking distance. They then extend their sticky tongues to capture the prey and pull it into their mouths.
2. Amphibians are important in controlling insect populations in their habitats because they consume large numbers of insects, helping to keep their numbers in check and maintain ecological balance.
3. An aquatic salamander's feeding behavior might involve suction feeding, using rapid mouth movements to create a vacuum that sucks in small prey swimming nearby, while a terrestrial salamander might use ambush tactics to catch prey on land.
4. If an amphibian's prey species were to disappear, it could lead to a decrease in the amphibian population due to lack of food, potentially causing disruptions in the ecosystem.

