

Name _____

Amphibians Unveiled: Exploring the Diversity of Land and Water Lifestyles

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Some amphibians are more specialized in their habitat preferences due to factors such as evolutionary history, ecological niche, and environmental pressures. For example, species that have evolved to inhabit specific environments, such as forests or streams, may be less adaptable to other habitats.
2. The habitat preferences of amphibians can affect their behaviors and survival strategies by influencing their feeding habits, reproductive behaviors, and ability to find suitable shelter and resources. For example, species that are highly adapted to aquatic habitats may rely heavily on specific food sources found only in those environments.
3. An example of an amphibian species adapted to a specific aquatic habitat is the axolotl, which is native to the lakes and canals of Mexico City. Axolotls have fully aquatic lifestyles and unique adaptations for living underwater, such as external gills and a flattened body shape.
4. If an amphibian population's habitat were to become polluted or destroyed, it could lead to declines in population size, loss of genetic diversity, and increased vulnerability to extinction. Pollution or habitat destruction can disrupt critical breeding sites, food sources, and shelter, making it difficult for amphibians to survive and reproduce.

