

Name _____

Amphibians of North America: Exploring the Diverse Species in Your Backyard

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. The American bullfrog is considered a voracious predator because it feeds on a variety of prey, including insects, small fish, and even other frogs. Its large size and powerful jaws make it an effective hunter in its aquatic habitat.
2. The unique life cycle of the Eastern newt allows it to inhabit a variety of habitats, including ponds, forests, and wetlands, throughout different stages of its life. This adaptability increases its chances of survival in diverse environments and provides opportunities for reproduction and dispersal.
3. One adaptation of the spotted salamander that helps it thrive in its woodland habitat is its ability to burrow underground. Spotted salamanders spend much of their time underground, where they can find shelter from predators and harsh environmental conditions.
4. Wood frogs play an important role in their ecosystems, especially during the breeding season, by serving as prey for predators such as snakes, birds, and mammals, and by consuming insects and other small invertebrates. Additionally, their breeding behavior contributes to the health of wetland habitats by providing food and nutrients for other organisms and helping to maintain ecosystem balance.

