Name _____ Date _____

Life Cycles: From Egg to Frog

Directions: Read about the frogs in Lucy's pond. Then answer each question.

Changes at the Pond

In spring, Lucy found frog eggs at the edge of a pond. All summer, she visited the pond to watch them change.

Most frogs go through the same four stages. First, a mother frog lays **eggs** in water. A tiny **tadpole** hatches from each egg. A young tadpole has no legs, just a long tail. It swims in the water and breathes with gills, like a fish. As it grows, it gets back legs, and later front legs. Its tail gets shorter as its body takes it in. Now it is a **froglet**. The froglet keeps growing into an **adult frog** with no tail. It breathes with lungs and can hop on land. Later, mother frogs lay new eggs, and the cycle starts again.

This big change in body form is called **metamorphosis**. Some frogs, like the coquí, skip the swimming tadpole stage. A coquí hatches from its egg as a tiny frog.

1. Use the word bank to finish the sentences about a growing frog.

Word bank
egg • tadpole • froglet • metamorphosis

A young frog with four legs and a short tail is a _____. The big change from tadpole to frog is called _____.

2. Which list shows the stages of most frogs' lives in order?

A. Egg, froglet, tadpole, adult frog
B. Egg, adult frog, tadpole, froglet
C. Egg, tadpole, froglet, adult frog
D. Tadpole, egg, froglet, adult frog

3. How do a young tadpole and an adult frog differ?

A. The tadpole has a tail and no legs, but the frog has legs and no tail.
B. The tadpole hops on land, but the frog cannot hop.
C. The tadpole has four legs, but the frog has none.
D. The tadpole lives on land, but the frog lives only in water.

4. Which legs does a tadpole grow first?

A. All four legs at the same time
B. Its front legs
C. Its back legs
D. It never grows legs

5. What happens to a tadpole's tail as it changes into a frog?

A. It grows longer and stronger.

B. It gets shorter as the body takes it in.

C. It falls off in one piece.

D. It turns into the back legs.

6. How does a coquí frog's life differ from most frogs' lives?

A. A coquí stays a tadpole its whole life.

B. A coquí grows back legs only as an adult.

C. A coquí hatches as a tiny frog, so it skips the swimming tadpole stage.

D. A coquí never hatches from an egg.

7. A chick hatches looking like a small, fluffy chicken. As it grows, its body keeps the same shape. Why is this not metamorphosis?

A. Chicks never grow.

B. The chick's body form does not go through a big change.

C. Only things that live in water can grow.

D. Chicks do not hatch from eggs.

8. What would happen if Lucy's pond dried up before the tadpoles had legs?

A. They would probably die, because they need water to live.

B. They would turn back into eggs.

C. They would hop away to a new pond.

D. They would grow lungs fast and live on dry land.