

Beloved species from Canada's wetlands

EASTERN TIGER SALAMANDER

Ambystoma tigrinum

- + Eggs are laid underwater and hatch into fully aquatic larvae which spend about three to seven months in their breeding pool before maturing and leaving.
- + Can reach sexual maturity without metamorphosing into their terrestrial adult form. These are called neotenes, which are particularly common where terrestrial habitat conditions are poor.
- + Have permeable skin—meaning they can absorb oxygen through their skin into blood vessels that are close to the surface. Unfortunately, this also makes it easy for harmful chemicals to pass into their bodies.
- + Are nocturnal predators who eat insects, baby mice, snails, frogs, slugs and worms.
- + Have interesting defense mechanisms: they'll raise their back legs up and wave their tail in the air to ward off predators and glands on the back of their tail produce a sticky predator repellant.
- + Sometimes turn cannibalistic and consume their own kind. Cannibalism can almost always be tracked back to a large volume of competing predators and lack of prey in the area.
- + Is endangered in Manitoba and extirpated (wiped out) from southern Ontario.
- + Live for 12-15 years in the wild.

