









# ARE YOU ME?

Some animals grow up in a process called **metamorphosis** (*meh-tuh-MOR-foh-sis*) where they change and look very different as they grow.

This usually happens in three life stages. They start as an egg, grow into a larva, and end as an adult that will then lay more eggs. Because they change so much you may be surprised what they looked like as larva!

For example, did you know dragonflies start their life without wings and living underwater? And salamanders start their life with feathery shaped gills before growing lungs as an adult?

**1** Draw a line to match these young animals (larvae) to their adult forms.

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**2** Now take a hike and see if you can spot any of these animals in their egg, larval or adult form.

Put a check next to any you see and describe where you found it (in water, under a log, etc.) If you can't find any describe where you looked. If you're not sure how to find them, ask park staff for help.

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# BE A BOX TURTLE

Box turtles are often found in forests with a wet area like a swamp or marsh; they need both a sunny area to bask and a shady area with damp leaves or soil to cool off. Areas with fallen logs or upturned trees make good hiding spots. They are omnivores, which means they eat both plants and meat. Some favorites include berries, mushrooms, slugs, earthworms, snails, and fallen fruit

**3** Imagine that you are a newly-hatched box turtle trying to make your home in the park. Box turtles, like all animals, require at least three things to survive: food, water, and shelter.

Use the above background information to help you decide which trail to hike to search for your new home. When you've found it, do the activity below.

## Shelter

Draw a picture of your new home below

## Food

Draw pictures of the food you could eat below

**Water:** Where will you find water to drink (lake, river, stream. etc.)? Can you see it from your home? If not, look on a park map to find your water source.

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Part of our job as Junior Rangers is to protect the park and the plants and animals that live there. How can you protect box turtles?

*Box turtles have a small home range and feel lost when removed, so please don't remove them or keep box turtles as pets. We need them to stay wild so they can reproduce and make new box turtle babies. Park rangers, scientists and trained volunteers involved with Box Turtle Connection track down turtles to record their age, sex, and characteristics about where they were found. This helps to make sure there's enough living out in the wild.*

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