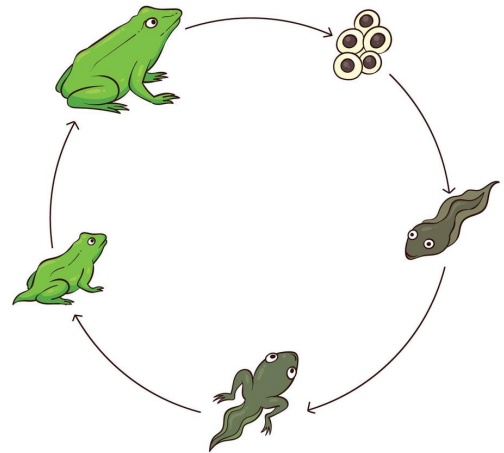
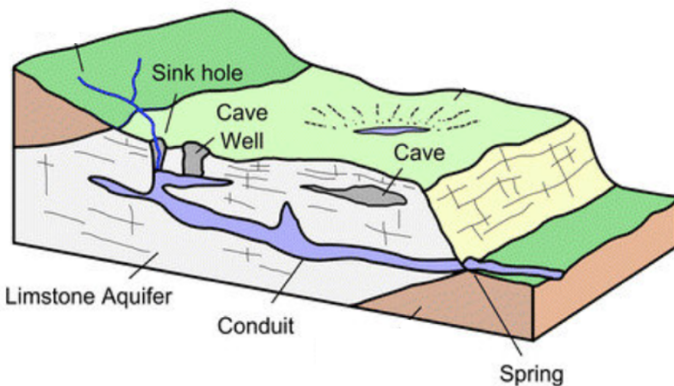


Tadpole begins life in the water as an egg, then changes to a tadpole, froglet, and a frog. This process of change is called **metamorphosis**. Frog is a(n) **amphibian**, which means he spends his early life in the water with gills and adult life with lungs on the land.



Because of a **flash flood**, Tadpole was swept away by water into a sinkhole. Tadpole fell into a **karst aquifer** a pool of water underground surrounded by rock. These underwater caves are the habitat of the Mexican Blindcat, of the **genus** *Prietella*. Blindcat uses his **lateral lines**, a sensory organ that detects vibrations and pressure changes in the dark water.

Cave **ecosystems** are low-energy environments, where food is scarce. Scientists believe many cave species adapted to lose their eyesight to conserve **energy**.



In the story, Tadpole moves through parts of the water cycle. Water in aquifers can connect many places, no matter the political boundary at the surface. Las **Cuevas Mágicas** are not really magic, but rather, cave formations seem to magically form over time due to erosion and chemical reactions between rainwater and limestone (rocks).

Tadpole made it back to the surface through a(n) **artesian spring**, where underground water pressure pushed him out to a new body of water at the surface.

amphibian	genus	cave formations
Cuevas Mágicas	flash flood	karst aquifer
metamorphosis	energy	artesian spring
ecosystems	lateral lines	pectoral fins