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Under the Log

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4/12/21 Monday
North Hampton, NH

I was outside on a nature trail in the woods behind my school in North Hampton, NH with my science class. It was cloudy and around 50°. I was walking around when I pushed over a log and underneath was a group of salamanders. Each salamander looked different from the other. The ground underneath the log was damp with other bugs moving around. I learned that most salamanders live under logs because they need to stay damp or wet as they can't stay out in the sun or they will dry out. I continued looking at the salamanders and I noticed that one of them was missing a tail. I did some research and found that this salamander might be the Jefferson salamander (*Ambystoma jeffersonianum*) and that there are 12 different types of salamanders that live in the New Hampshire coastal area. I know that certain salamanders can detach their tails as a defense mechanism against predators and that is what the Jefferson salamander might have done. It seemed that only a few types of salamander could detach their tails. The other two types must have other defense mechanisms against predators. There was a smaller newt called the Eastern/Red-spotted Newt, Red Eft (*Notophthalmus viridescens*) that was bright orange. While finding what the orange newt was called I learned that the reason it was orange. The reason being that the newt was still young and that it would change color when it was older and moved to living in a body of water instead of on land. I am still wondering what different salamanders do to stay alive through the cold weather and winters? I will continue doing research to find out why. I now know so much more about salamanders and will continue to search for different breeds everytime I go out into the woods.



Eastern/Red-spotted Newt, Red Eft (*Notophthalmus viridescens*)



Jefferson salamander (*Ambystoma jeffersonianum*)

Department, N., 2021. *Red-spotted Newt* | *Nongame* | *New Hampshire Fish and Game Department*.
[online] Wildlife.state.nh.us. Available at:
<<https://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/wildlife/profiles/red-spotted-newt.html>> [Accessed 15 April 2021].
<https://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/nongame/salamanders.html>