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## Why no salamander eggs?

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# Why no salamander eggs?

By: Rowan T.

On April 25, 2022 1:17 pm, my class and I went on a walk for science class on our school trails. We went to the vernal pool we found days before. It was a wetland pool because it was deep in our school trails and it had tons of leaves in it. When we



looked into the vernal pool, we only found frog eggs. There were many patches of frog eggs like this one in the vernal pool. But no salamanders in sight. Why were there no salamanders? We know they were frog eggs because salamander eggs have a gel-like layer surrounding them and they are laid in much smaller patches. Was it because they come out later in the year? Or maybe it has to do with the type of vernal pool we found. These are a few

questions I wondered about.

After some research I learned that it doesn't have to do with the type of vernal pool, but the size. Salamanders need to have much more space than frog eggs to lay eggs because their eggs take longer to hatch. Approximately 1,000 feet says virginia dwr. It's crazy just how much more room a salamander needs than a frog. It also allows them more space to lay considering they don't lay as much in one clump as frogs. There might still be time for them to lay and if we get more rain it becomes more and more probable for there to be salamanders. I say this because it is the right habitat, they like wet forests, they need it to be damp to survive.

Based on my observation and research, salamanders weren't not in the vernal pool because of the type or time of year, but because of the size of the pool. They need more space to lay eggs and take longer to hatch. I still want to know how much longer the eggs take to hatch than frogs. And, maybe there is another pool nearby where all the salamanders lay their eggs. It makes me wonder if there might be more salamanders if it had rained more this spring.

## Citation

Heiser, C. April 16, 2020. Seen a Salamander? Vernal Pools are Unique Habitats. [virginia dwr](https://www.dwr.virginia.gov/conservation/conservation-education/conservation-education-articles/seen-a-salamander-vernals-pools-are-unique-habitats)