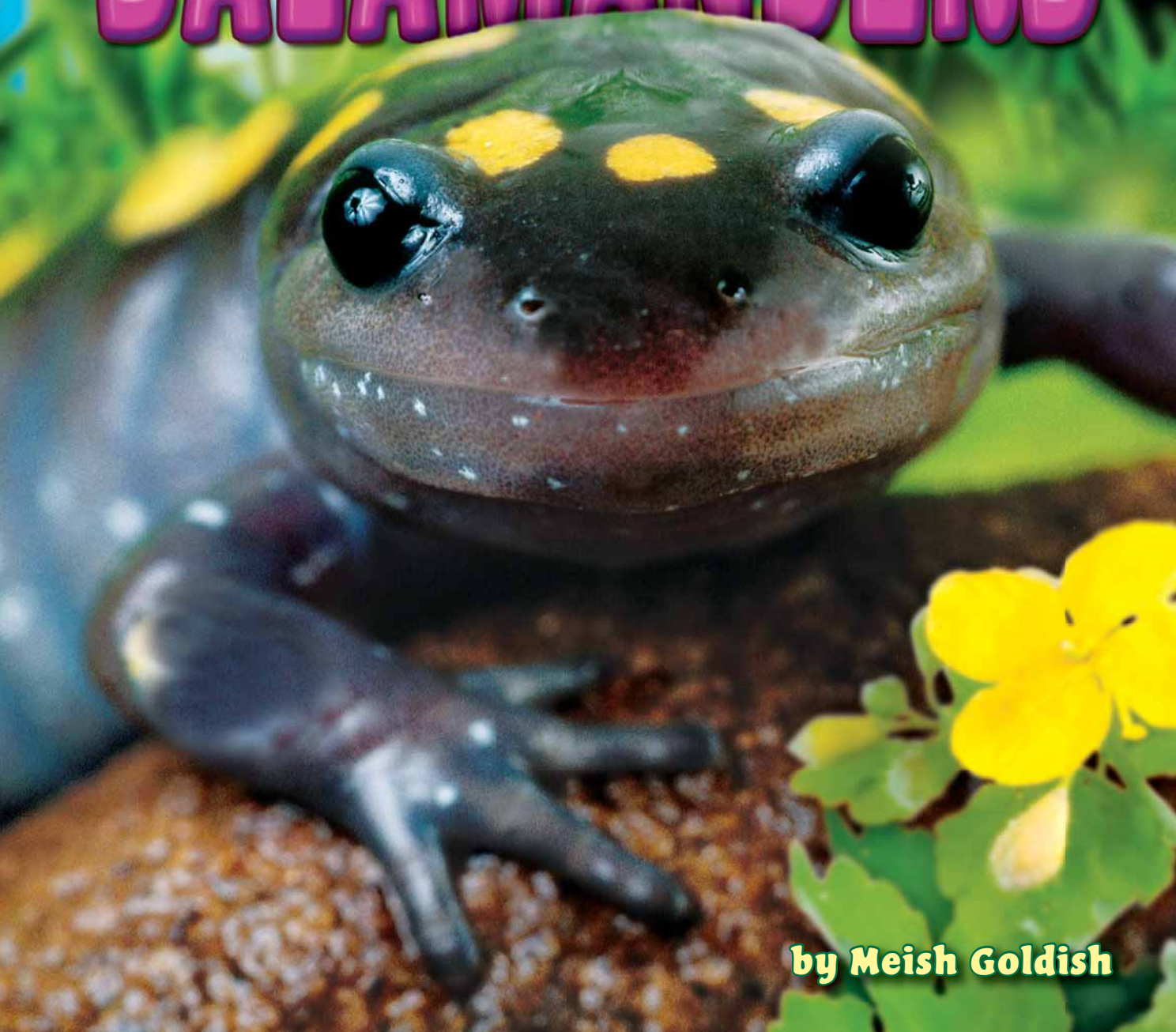




Slimy SALAMANDERS



by Meish Goldish

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BEARPORT
PUBLISHING

New York, New York

Credits

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Publisher: Kenn Goin

Editorial Director: Adam Siegel

Creative Director: Spencer Brinker

Design: Debrah Kaiser

Photo Researcher: Picture Perfect Professionals, LLC

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Goldish, Meish.

Slimy salamanders / by Meish Goldish.

p. cm. — (Amphibiana)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN-13: 978-1-936087-37-2 (library binding)

ISBN-10: 1-936087-37-5 (library binding)

1. Salamanders—Juvenile literature. 2. Salamanders—Life cycles—Juvenile literature. I. Title.

QL668.C2G56 2010

597.8'5—dc22

2009035941

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For more information, write to Bearport Publishing Company, Inc., 101 Fifth Avenue, Suite 6R, New York, New York 10003. Printed in the United States of America in North Mankato, Minnesota.

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090309CGB

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Living in Flames?

Thousands of years ago, people in Europe burned logs to cook food and stay warm. As the fire burned, they often saw **slimy** little creatures scurry out of the flames. The people thought these animals were created by the fire and gave them the name *salamander*. The name comes from a Greek word which means “living in flames.”



▲ Old, rotting logs are popular homes for many kinds of salamanders.

Salamanders are among the earliest known animals on Earth. They first lived at the same time as dinosaurs, about 165 million years ago.

Of course, people now know that salamanders don't really live in fire. Many of the creatures simply like to live or hide inside logs. If the logs are burned, the salamanders rush out to escape.

The fire salamander is one of the most common kinds of salamanders found in Europe today. Its name is a reminder of the time when people thought salamanders lived in fire.



Water Animals

Salamanders are actually just about the opposite of fire animals. Because they are a type of **amphibian**, they are really water animals.

The word *amphibian* means “a double life.” Amphibians were given that name because during their lives, most of them live in two different **habitats**—one in water and one on land. They usually spend their early life in water and their adult life on land.



◀ The mudpuppy is one kind of salamander that spends its entire life in water.

The spotted salamander is ▶ one of the most well-known salamanders that spends its adult life on land.



Water is important to salamanders and all other amphibians. It keeps their skin **moist**. The animals aren't just covered and protected by their wet skin. They also use it to breathe in **oxygen**. If their skin dries out, they will not be able to get enough oxygen—and they will die.

Like
salamanders,
frogs and toads are
also amphibians.

frog

toad

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Learn More Online

To learn more about salamanders, visit
www.bearportpublishing.com/Amphibiana

About the Author

Meish Goldish has written more than 200 books for children.
He lives in Brooklyn, New York.

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Slimy SALAMANDERS

Get ready to meet some of the slimiest creatures on Earth. From the tiny pygmy salamander to the enormous Chinese giant salamander, these creatures are covered with slippery mucus. Believe it or not, for them that's a good thing. The gooey coating keeps their bodies moist. In fact, if a salamander's skin ever dried out, it would die.

Look inside to find out more about these slippery, wiggly creatures. As you do, you'll discover where they live, how they stay safe, and what kinds of surprising changes they go through as they grow from tiny eggs to slime-coated adults.

Amazing Water Frogs

Leaping Ground Frogs

Little Newts

Slimy Salamanders

Tricky Tree Frogs

Warty Toads



BEARPORT
PUBLISHING

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ISBN-13: 978-1-936087-37-2



9 781936 087372