

Common name: California Tiger Salamander

Scientific name: *Ambystoma californiense*



DESCRIPTION

- Notice the salamander's rounded snout and how its eyes stick out from its head.
- Adult males grow to be about 8 inches long (20 cm). Adult females are a little bit smaller than males and grow to be about 7 inches long (17 cm).
- The "tiger" comes from the white and yellow bars and patterns on the salamander's body.

HABITAT

- Spends most of its life in a burrow underground. Salamanders use burrows that were already made by other animals like squirrels. Burrows found in grasslands and foothills.
- Ponds are necessary for salamanders to breed. Biologists are working with ranchers to preserve areas of rangelands and ranch stock ponds so salamanders can use them.

FOOD

- Adults eat mostly insects. Larvae eat things like algae, mosquito larvae, and tadpoles.

MATING

- Around November, salamanders come out of their burrows. This usually happens on a rainy night. They will travel as much as 1 mile to find a pond for breeding.
- Females lay eggs and can lay as many as 1,300 eggs. The eggs are usually attached to vegetation in the water. Eggs hatch in about 10 to 14 days.

PREDATORS

- Large birds like herons and egrets. Fish. Non-native bullfrogs.

STATUS

- California tiger salamanders in the Central Valley are threatened, which means that biologists are concerned about them, but they are not in danger of dying out now.

Information courtesy of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service – Sacramento Office.