

# Nat Theo Club

## FIELD NOTES

ISSUE #72



### Salamander

AMPHIBIAN

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Salamanders, like frogs and toads, are amphibians. These vertebrates (have backbones) animals have moist skin, lay eggs, and are cold-blooded (temperature is dependent on their environment).

#### FUN FACT

Amphibians breathe with their skin, gills, or lungs. Sometimes they use one, two, or three of these methods. Tadpoles use their gills only. Salamanders use all three methods to breathe.



### DO YOU FIND CREATURES YOU DON'T KNOW THE NAME OF?

I live in a neighborhood and have wildlife all around me. When I am out for a walk, I'm searching for living things. When I mow the yard or plant new flowers, my eyes are looking for what I might find.

Though I love to go to a park and hike, I don't have to go somewhere else to find wonderful things. We live on a hill above a seasonal creek. When it rains in spring and fall, the creek fills with water. During the summer, the creek is dry, and yet, salamanders have taken up residence in my yard year-round. They have found refuge under the deck and in the woods behind my house. The shade helps to keep the soil moist and attracts moist-skinned salamanders.

Last week, I cleaned under my deck and found this salamander. I am always amazed by the small creatures that live around my city home. I will pause whatever I'm doing to observe their features and their behavior.

I didn't know this salamander, so I took a picture to remind me to learn its name. This is a northern gray-cheeked salamander. Do you see its grey cheeks?

John 1:3 reminds us that "Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made." The "him" that the Bible is referring to is Jesus. He made the large animals, like the elephant and the blue whale, but he also made the small creatures, like the northern gray-cheeked salamander. When you are outside, even in your yard, be on the lookout for the tiny creations that Jesus has made. They are a wonder just as much as the giant ones, and all of them live to give glory to their Maker.

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