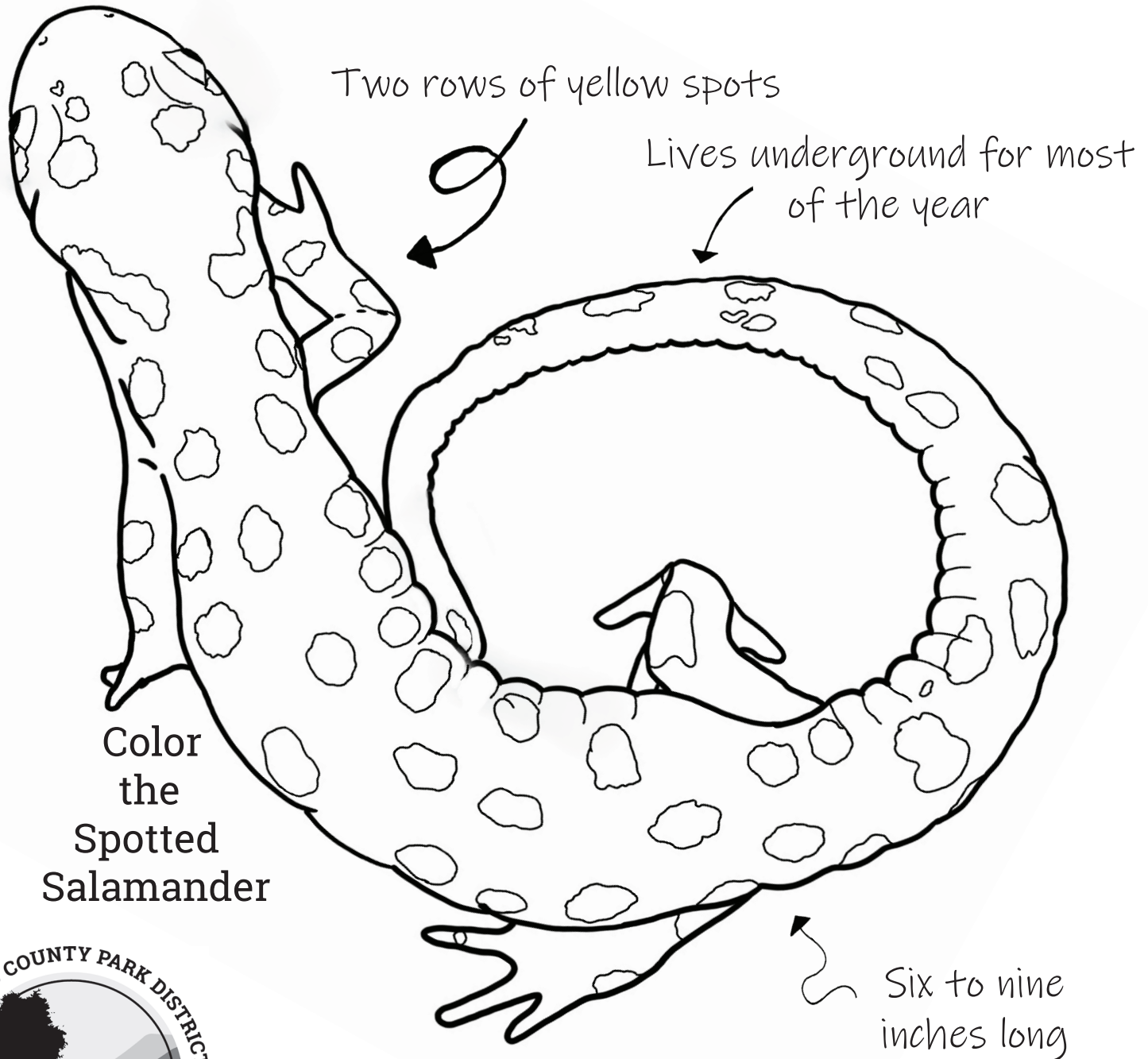


# Get to Know: The Spotted Salamander

*Ambystoma maculatum*

Shy and secretive, the Spotted Salamander spends most of the year hidden away in underground burrows. The warm evening rains in early Spring trigger a mass migration of these salamanders. On the right night, dozens of these amphibians may emerge and head to a **vernal pool** to mate and lay eggs.



**For more visit:** [www.FairfieldCountyParks.org](http://www.FairfieldCountyParks.org)

# Journey to the Vernal Pool

Help the Salamander navigate the forest floor to the vernal pool. Pick up the correct letters along the way to answer the riddle:

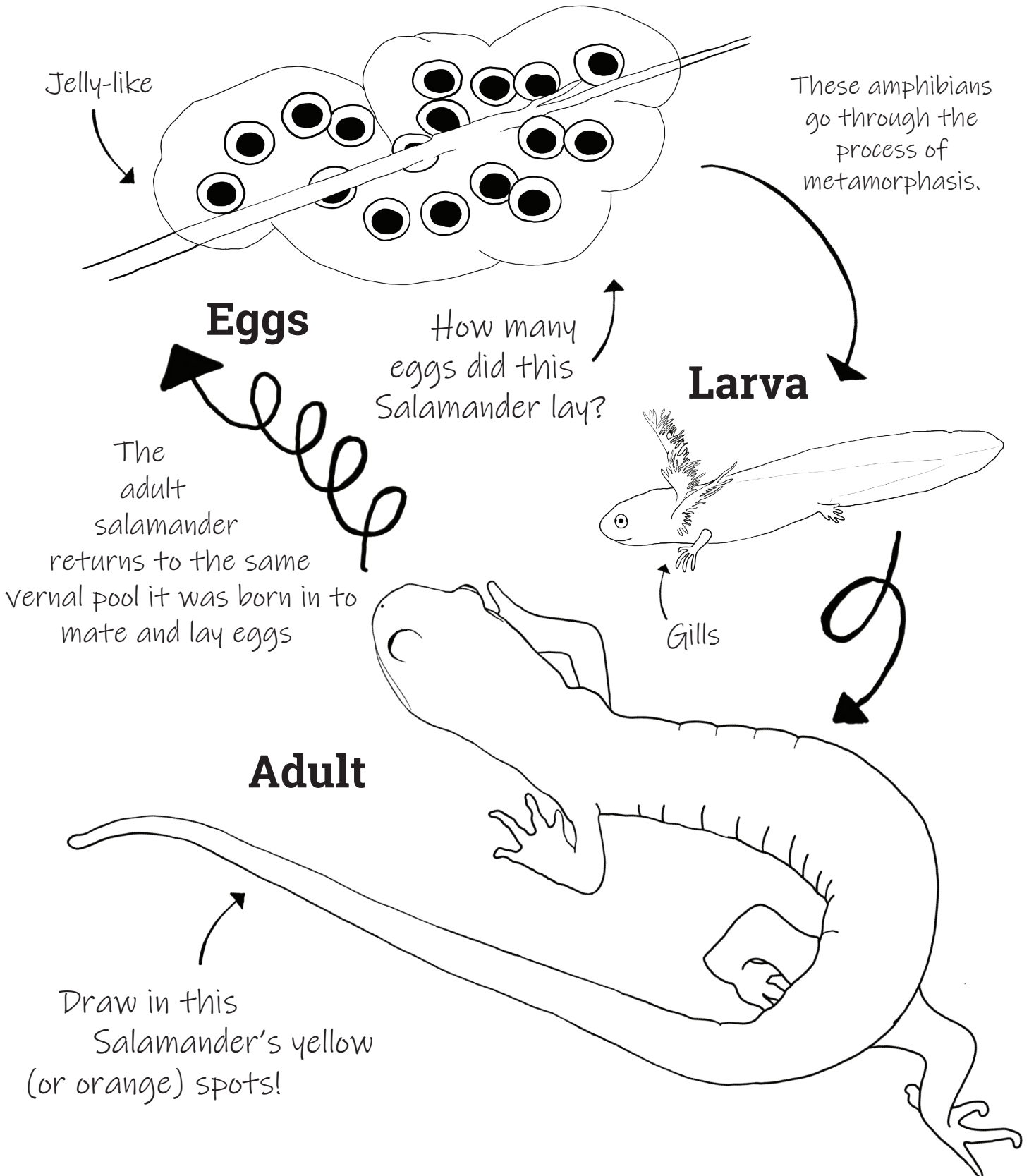
**What do you call an amphibian in disguise?**



A vernal pool is a small wetland that fills in the spring and disappears by late Summer. Many animals depend on vernal pools such as Spotted Salamanders, Wood Frogs and Fairy Shrimp.

# Life Cycle of a Spotted Salamander

Spotted Salamander eggs are laid underwater, so when the young hatch they have gills for breathing, weak legs, and a broad tail built for swimming. Juvenile and adult salamanders have lungs instead of gills and strong legs for walking on land. They spend most of the year hidden underground, and only emerge in early spring to mate and lay eggs.





# Spring Scavenger Hunt

Go outside for a walk and see how many of these items you can find:



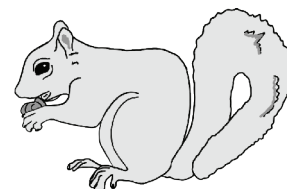
Frog



Deer tracks



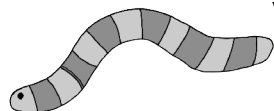
Moth



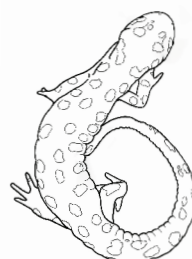
Squirrel



Spring Flower



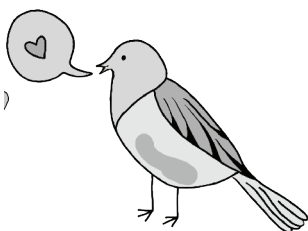
Worm



Salamander



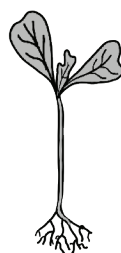
Leaf



Bird Singing



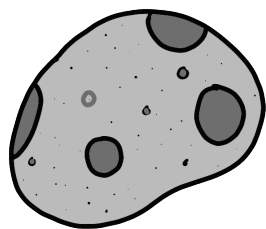
Feather



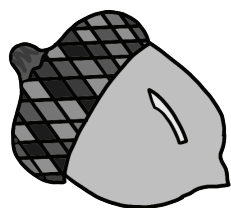
Sprouting Plant



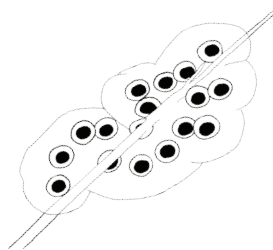
Pinecone



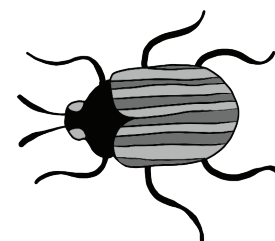
Smooth Rock



Acorn



Egg Mass



Bug