



**Observation and Art Challenge:** Use play dough or modeling clay to shape the stages of the life cycle of a spotted salamander.

1. Start in the vernal pools: Can you sculpt salamander eggs?
2. See how each egg has a layer of jelly, and then an outer layer of jelly around the whole clump of eggs?
3. Can you show eggs that have grown into more developed embryos? How are they different from the eggs of earlier stages?
4. When larvae hatch, what body parts do they grow next? Do you see the gills, arms, then legs? Can you show with your sculpture?
5. Can you sculpt a juvenile salamander next?

### **Story Challenge:**

1. Can you tell a story of life from a spotted salamander's point of view? What life stage will you start your story from?
2. Can you describe how one stage changes to the next? How does the salamander feel or what might they notice changing at each stage?
3. Where does the salamander live in each stage? Can you imagine and describe those different places?

### **Share your story:**

Can you act out your story by playing with the sculptures you made? Write your story down on paper and make your own book?  
Or take turns sharing your stories out loud with friends?