

# Red-backed Salamander

*Plethodon cinereus*



## WHERE WOULD I FIND A SALAMANDER?

Salamanders are amphibians (like frogs) which means they need water and moisture. You can find some species near creeks and ponds, but red-backed salamanders are hardy and will often stray from water sources to enjoy the moisture under rocks and logs instead. If you've moved a rock or log to look for salamanders, always put it back the way you found it!

## IS IT TRUE THAT THEY CAN REGROW THEIR TAILS?

Yes! They will drop them as a distraction while they run away, but the tail will regrow them over time! The lead-phase red-backed salamander to the right (these salamanders can come in a range of colors) has dropped its tail at some point. You can tell by the blunt tip instead of a pointed end.



## WHY ARE THESE THE ONLY SALAMANDERS FOUND AT THE NATURE CENTER?

Shaker Lakes, like many regional areas, is fighting water pollution. Most salamanders lay eggs in water, but our water is too polluted to support their delicate eggs and bodies. Red-backed salamanders lay eggs on land, making our 20-acres a perfect habitat for them.

## DID YOU KNOW?

These salamanders come in three colors (or "phases"): lead, tan, and red. The red phase is only found in the northeast part of our state!

