

The Life Cycle of a Giant Salamander

The Giant Salamanders grow to about 20cm in the first five years, as their gills disappear and they move to pulmonary breathing as they become adults.

This process is also known as metamorphosis.

Over the next 20 years they grow roughly 40cm, into a fully grown Salamander.

Their average life-span isn't definitively known, but is estimated at around 100 years.

The largest size they grow to is roughly 150cm, but in the wild they tend to only grow 1cm or less a year. It is thought that a 70cm long salamander is over 50 years old.



This is a 5-month old Giant Salamander after hatching, at 7cm long and entirely black, with 3 gills on the side of its neck.



A 3 year old Giant Salamander, at 15cm long, his gills have disappeared and he is brown with black spots.