The Northern Leopard Frog

Read the passage. Then answer the questions in full sentences.

Name _____ Date _____

The northern leopard frog is named for its spots. Its smooth skin is green or brown, with large dark spots, and each spot has a light ring around it. A white stripe runs along its upper jaw.

To lay their eggs, leopard frogs look for shallow, still water where the sun shines in. A female lays her eggs in a tight clump, held on plants just under the water. One clump can hold several hundred to several thousand eggs.

The eggs hatch into small tadpoles in 2 to 17 days. How long they take depends on how warm the water is. The tadpoles eat algae. From egg to frog takes three to six months.

A grown frog eats insects, spiders and leeches, and sometimes even small birds and snakes. In winter it rests underwater in a pond or lake, where the water does not freeze all the way to the bottom. In the wild, a leopard frog lives two to four years.

1. **What color is a northern leopard frog's skin?**

2. **How many eggs can one clump hold?**

3. **What decides how long the eggs take to hatch?**

4. **Why do you think a leopard frog needs water that does not freeze all the way to the bottom in winter?**

Answer key

The Northern Leopard Frog

1. What color is a northern leopard frog's skin?
   Green or brown, with large dark spots.

2. How many eggs can one clump hold?
   Several hundred to several thousand.

3. What decides how long the eggs take to hatch?
   How warm the water is.

4. Why do you think a leopard frog needs water that does not freeze all the way to the bottom in winter?
   Sample answer: it stays underwater all winter, so it needs water that does not turn to ice around it, or the frog would freeze too.